

NEWS IN
SUMMARYANC given
new
premises

Staff of the African National Congress (ANC), the militant black nationalist organization whose London mission was wrecked by a bomb last Sunday, have been offered temporary accommodation by the British Council of Churches at its headquarters in Eaton Gate, Westminster.

(Michael Howell writes).

Canon Paul Oestreicher, the council's assistant general secretary, said yesterday that the bombing of the ANC's office was deeply deplored by the council as an action against all South Africans whose aspirations for majority rule the ANC had faithfully represented for 70 years.

Mrs Ruth Mompatti, chief representative of the ANC in Britain, said: "We are grateful to the BCC and we have accepted the offer." The ANC is awaiting a surveyor's report which will determine whether the mission will have to be demolished.

Youths jailed
for killing PC

Two youths who dragged a "courageous and model policeman" to his death were acquitted of his murder at Liverpool Crown Court yesterday. Our Liverpool correspondent writes. But Jeffrey Jaycock, aged 19 of Charlton Road, and Mark Kelly aged 21 of Ringcroft Road, both of Old Swan, Liverpool were both jailed for nine years for his manslaughter.

PC Raymond Davenport, aged 35 had leaned inside the youths' car to switch off the ignition, last July 4 when the car sped away dragging him along.

Court cuts cash
to road victims

The Court of Appeal in London yesterday ruled that interest on general damages for "pain, suffering and loss of amenity" in accident cases should be cut from the present level of more than 10 per cent to only 2 per cent.

Three judges pruned £10,000 from an overall damages and interest award of £242,404 to Mrs Sandra Birken, aged 42, who suffered head injuries in a road accident.

Law report, page 21

Civil servants'
technology deal

The Government yesterday completed a new technology agreement with Civil Service union leaders representing 520,000 white-collar staff which the Government believes is a big contribution to Information Technology Year (Our Labour Staff writes).

The interim two-year agreement includes a government guarantee of no compulsory redundancies through new technology.

The object of the agreement is to improve efficiency and standards of service in government operations. The Civil Service is Britain's largest single user of computers.

School barricade

The police were called to Willowgarth High School, Grimethorpe, near Barnsley today when about 20 pupils barricaded the main gate. When police arrived, the pupils ran away, but one was detained.

Penlee disaster
drama of
three captains

From Craig Seton, Penzance

The master of a coaster drifting in mountainous seas toward rocks failed to put out a Mayday signal and his crew showed "no sense of urgency" as a helicopter and lifeboat fought to lift them and their passengers to safety, an inquest was told at Penzance yesterday.

The inquest into the deaths of the eight crew of the Penlee lifeboat Solomon Browne from the Cornish village of Mousehole and the eight people on board the 1,400-ton Union Star was told that Captain Henry Moreton had not lowered his ship's mast to enable the helicopter to get closer as he would have known to do.

Earlier, Captain Moreton, aged 52, was described as "short tempered" with the master of a salvage tug offering a tow and he asked him only to stand by. The jury heard that the master had on board his wife and two teenage stepdaughters picked up in an unscheduled stop without the knowledge of his company.

The Union Star, carrying fertilizer to Dublin on her maiden voyage, had broken down with engine failure eight miles off Land's End. The wind gusted up to 85 knots and waves reached 70 ft as she drifted over a period of two hours and 40 minutes on to the rocks and eventually overturned. The battered Penlee Lifeboat, having picked-up four people from the coaster, was lost.

The inquest, which will continue today, heard evidence from the tug master that the lifeboat had probably been damaged after hitting the coaster's side and its crew, including the coxswain Trevelyan Richards, were possibly concussed or injured. He thought they were making a desperate run for shelter but the Solomon Browne either overturned or was dashed on to rocks.

The inquest was given evidence that showed the emergency was a drama of three captains, the pilot of the Royal Navy helicopter, whose rotor blades had come within three feet of the coaster's mast, the master of the stricken coaster who wanted his wife and children taken off first and the desperate attempts of Trevelyan Richards to get everybody on to his lifeboat.

Mr John Burman, the master of the coaster, said yesterday that it had closed but was still growing with the accumulation of interest. He was unable to say when an announcement would be made about the division of the money but it is understood that it will make special provisions for the future well-being of the young children of dead crewmen. The dead men all came from Mousehole and they left behind five widows and 12 children, some of them grown up.

An estimated £500,000 given by the public to another fund set up by local fishermen has been divided equally between the eight families.

Mr John Burman, the



After the case: Mr Michael Bogdanov, director of the "Romans" play, and Mrs Mary Whitehouse, who brought a private prosecution against him.

'Romans' case is withdrawn

By David Nicholson-Lord

The case against a national theatre director on gross indecency charges under the Sexual Offences Act was withdrawn at the Central Criminal Court yesterday after three rulings from the judge.

These were that the Act applied to events on stage, that a simulated sexual act could still amount to gross indecency, and that the motive of "sexual gratification" was not an essential part of the offence.

Mr Ian Kennedy, QC, representing Mrs Mary Whitehouse in her private prosecution against the director, said there was thus a prima facie case to answer. But if Mr Michael Bogdanov, the director, was convicted, the consequences of any penalty could "gravely damage" his private and professional life.

Mr Kennedy said Mr Bogdanov had only staged the male rape scene in the play, *The Romans in Britain*, after discussions with National Theatre directors and advised that the scene could not transgress the criminal law. "He knows it is not so," Mr Kennedy added. But the public interest would not be served by taking the prosecution further.

Mr Kennedy was explaining to the court why he had decided that the prosecution should be stopped three days after it had started and after hearing evidence from one prosecution witness, Mr Graham Ross-Cornell, Mrs Whitehouse's solicitor.

The case, which was being

widely viewed as crucial for theatre managements in determining what they could portray on stage, centred on a scene in *The Romans in Britain* in which a young Celt, who is also a trained Druid priest, is the subject of attempted buggery by a Roman soldier.

The play ran at the Olivier Theatre during the autumn and winter of 1980. Mr Bogdanov, aged 43, was charged under the Sexual Offences Act of 1956 for the performances on December 19, 1980, the night when Mr Ross-Cornell visited the theatre with the declared intention of determining whether there was evidence for a prosecution.

Mr Ross-Cornell agreed

during the hearing that the play, centring on Caesar's invasion of Britain, was deeply serious and that Mr Bogdanov was a director of distinction. Lord Hutchinson of Lullingstone, QC, for the defence, said at the end of the case yesterday that many

witnesses would have been called in Mr Bogdanov's defence.

They would have "clearly and incontrovertibly" established that the allegation of gross indecency, which Mr Bogdanov denied, was "entirely false".

The alleged loophole in the Theatres Act, according to theatre managements, lies in an apparent omission, which meant that Mrs Whitehouse did not have to gain the permission of the Attorney General for an offence under another statute, as opposed to an offence at common law.

The ruling by Mr Justice Staugham spoke of defence submissions that prosecution under section 13 of the Sexual Offences Act had been used for a successful prosecution of three people for committing real sexual intercourse on the stage.

"The theatre is not seeking immunity from prosecution. We do not want to be exempted. But we need the law changed urgently if only to prevent the cost of further silly private prosecutions".

Mr Marius Goring, vice-president of Equity, the actors' union, said the judge's ruling threatens the whole basis on which our profession stands".

Jenkins attacks call
for return of hanging

From Julian Haviland, Political Editor Glasgow

There was a case for a new and substantial programme of prison building, Mr Roy Jenkins said in Glasgow yesterday.

The SDP-Liberal Alliance candidate in the Glasgow, Hillhead by-election, who is former Labour Home Secretary, said that the call by the Police Federation for the restoration of capital punishment tended to direct attention to the real issues.

He said that the Conservatives were reaping the whirlwind of trying to make law and order a party issue at the last general election.

Mr Jenkins recalled that the last Commons vote on capital punishment, resulted in a defeat for the idea of restoration in a way that even Mrs Margaret Thatcher regarded as conclusive. Another vote in the Commons would yield the same result.

The traditional battles of canvassing statistics began yesterday. Mr Jenkins' campaign managers put out figures which showed him ahead by 24 per cent to 21 per cent for the Conservative candidate, Mr Gerald Malone, with Labour at 1 per cent and the Scottish National party at

Jewish schools' aid
plea rejected

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

An application by three independent Jewish primary schools in North London to be taken into the maintained sector as voluntary aided schools has been rejected by the Government.

The Inner London Education Authority had opposed the application, on the grounds that it would have to take over the running costs amounting to nearly £1m a year, and it already had surplus capacity in the maintained primary schools and therefore no desire to take on three new schools.

The Authority also feared that, if accepted, more Jewish schools and those of other religious faiths, such as the Muslims, would wish to follow suit. Merton's cost would be enormous.

In addition, the authority was worried about the standards in the three Jewish schools: the Yesodey Hatorah girls' primary and the Lubavitch House girls' and boys' primary schools, all in Hackney.

Mr David Wiseman, the Labour candidate, remained aloof from that argument but Mr George Leslie, the SNP candidate, was scornful of the alliance claim to have canvassed 71 per cent of Hillhead voters. He did not believe that any campaign had ever achieved so high a level of contact.

The SNP claim that their own canvassing shows "bedrock" nationalist support of 18 to 19 per cent

Mr Wiseman yesterday had support from Mr Neil Kinnock, Opposition spokesman on education, who in a speech at Glasgow University attacked the proposed 4 per cent increase in student grants as a cut in real terms.

He said that Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education, was "introducing a student loans system through the back door

The law and order debate

MPs back move to restore birching

Conservative support grew yesterday for a new clause tabled to the Criminal Justice Bill which would bring in corporal punishment as a criminal sanction for boys aged between 10 and 18 (Frances Gibb writes).

The clause, expected to be debated next Tuesday in committee, has attracted 18 signatures from Tory MPs despite the ruling of the European Court of Human Rights which declared corporal punishment in the Isle of Man illegal.

Mr Vivian Bendall, Conservative MP for Redbridge, Ilford, North, one of the four committee members who supports the clause, said yesterday that with growing calls for tougher sanctions against crime, the clause's chances of success were growing daily.

The clause spells out at length the details, time, place and manner of a whipping to be inflicted on a boy under of magistrates.

The sanction would be available on summary conviction where young boys had assaulted or beaten another person, used provoking language or behaviour tending to a breach of the peace, or committed an act of criminal damage.

The court would have to state the number of strokes to be inflicted. A cane would be used on boys aged 10 to 14, and a birch rod on those aged 15 to 18. The maximum would be six strokes for the latter and 12 for the latter.

The Government is expected to back the introduction

of curfew orders for young offenders between the ages of 10 and 21. (Anthony Bevins writes).

Mr Nicholas Lyell, Conservative MP for Hemel Hempstead, has tabled a new clause to the Criminal Justice Bill which would allow the courts to order youngsters to stay at home for specified periods between 6pm and 8am weekdays, and from noon on Saturdays and Sundays.

"It has already been shown to be successful as a condition of bail," he said. Curfew orders, which would be made only with the approval of parents would be designed to reinforce the authority of the family and would punish offenders by keeping them at home when they would most like to be out.

It is understood that the Home Office is attracted to the idea, six of the 10 Tory backbenchers on the Criminal Justice Bill committee support it, as does Mr Alfred Dubs, Labour MP for Battersea South. Other Labour MPs oppose it, however.

Tramps: Sleeping rough to be legal

Tramps and vagrants will no longer be imprisoned for sleeping rough and beggarly, Mr Patrick Mayhew, Minister of State at the Home Office, promised yesterday (Francis Gibb writes).

He said the Government would bring in an amendment to the Criminal Justice Bill to abolish imprisonment for a lecture at the bars of Court Law School in London.

The way forward was by "third force" with its CS gas and plastic bullets, he said in a lecture at the bars of Court Law School in London.

Overseas selling prices

Austria Sch. 22; Bahrain BD 0.650;

Canaries Pes 1.25; Cyprus 50 mils;

Finland Mark 7.00; Greece Dr. 50;

Iceland Kr. 100; Israel Sheq. 100;

Italy Lira 1,000; Japan Yen 100;

Morocco Dir. 7; Norway Kr. 7.50; Oman

Sar. 90; Qatar QR 7.50; Saudi Arabia

SR. 50; Singapore 55.00; Spain Pes.

Pes 3,000; Syria Lira 50; Tunisia Din 1.00;

U.S. \$1.00; Venezuela 1.00; Yugoslavia Duk. 50.

Science report

Early man
ate
too much
liver

By the Staff of "Nature"

Close examination of the skeleton of a 1,500,000 year-old ancestor of *homo sapiens* has suggested that the lady in question suffered the toxic effects of too much vitamin A. Her condition may well have arisen from over-consumption of the liver of carnivorous animals, according to Dr Alan Walker of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore. Dr M. Zimmerman of the Philadelphia Medical College of Philadelphia and Professor Richard Leakey of the National Museums of Kenya.

The skeleton examined is the most complete available example of *homo erectus*. It was found in 1973 Lake Turkana in Kenya. While the bones of its skull appear almost normal, Dr Walker and his colleagues find that around many of the long bones in the skeleton's limbs there is deposited an extra layer of coarse-woven bone up to 7 millimetres thick in parts. That is similar to the pattern of bone disease observed in the rare cases of vitamin A toxicity that have been examined in recent times.

Although carrots, green vegetables and the liver of herbivorous animals supply most Westerners with more than enough vitamin A to meet the minimal dietary requirements, there is next to no danger of consuming a toxic overdose. Because the liver of carnivorous animals contains up to 30 times more vitamin A than that of herbivores, early polar explorers, driven to eating seal, polar bear or husky dog liver, sometimes suffered the short-term effects of vitamin A toxicity. These include vomiting, diarrhoea and convulsions.

Dr Walker and his colleagues suggest that, 1,500,000 years ago, long-term vitamin A toxicity was the result of early man becoming an eager meat-eater. From several Kenyan sites, notably Chesowanja, of about that age, stone tools and bone fragments from many species are first found in association with the remains of early humans. There is also evidence that our ancestors learnt to control fire at that time. With their newly acquired taste for meat, members of *homo erectus* may have devoured large quantities of the liver of carnivores.

There is no means by which the diagnosis of Dr Walker and his colleagues can be established beyond doubt. By a process of elimination, as they arrive, reasonably, at vitamin A toxicity as the most likely cause of the bone damage. Source: Nature, March 18 (Vol 296, p248) 1982.

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The following rates of interest will apply from
1st April 1982 until further notice.

Rates paid per annum

Gross equivalent with
income tax at 30%

Share Accounts	8.75%	12.50%
Premium Interest Shares	10.75%	15.36%
Higher Interest Shares	9.75%	13.93%
Savings Plan Accounts	10.00%	14.29%
Monthly Income Shares	8.75%	12.50%
Deposit Accounts (Ordinary Personal)	8.50%	12.14%
Flexible Term Shares and Investment Certificates	The rate of interest on all Term Shares and Investment Certificates — Certificates will be reduced by 1	

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Whitelaw to set up inquiry on cable TV control

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

The Home Secretary is to set up a formal inquiry into the impact of cable and satellite broadcasting on television standards.

Mr William Whitelaw is acutely concerned that the imminent increase in the number of television channels, with the first stage of a national cable television system operating within 18 months and with more than 30 channels ultimately from cable links, will mean loss of control over content.

The fear is that standards will slump, with pornography and other substandard material being broadcast by unscrupulous operators.

Satellite and cable broadcasting will involve a number of go-betweens, including programme-makers, operators who beam programmes up to satellites, those who own or lease satellite facilities, people receiving the satellite pictures, which might then be distributed by cable. That multiplicity of input and output, with some people linked into the system directly by rooftop dish-aerials, has greatly disturbed the Home Secretary.

He has stated that the maintenance of broadcasting standards was one of the most important Home Office problems for the future, and Mr Whitelaw's anxiety will have been increased by the powerful commercial and industrial lobby which has been mobilized behind the change.

The Prime Minister will publish on Monday the Cabinet's Information Technology Advisory Panel's report, outlining the new system's potential. The Government is expected to approve an early start on cable television and commercial satellite broadcasting.

The departments of industry and employment have, in particular, pressed for urgency. Mr Whitelaw's fears would seem to have been swept aside, to some extent, in the rush for the undoubted

US clear on Ulster policy, says Haughey

From Our Correspondent
Dublin

Mr Charles Haughey, Prime Minister of the Irish Republic, said in Dublin yesterday on his return from a visit to the United States, believed President Reagan fully appreciated his policy of seeking a British withdrawal from Northern Ireland.

Mr Haughey said: "At this stage I am only interested in outlining for him the problem as we see it and the lines along which we think a solution should emerge. The follow up to that will come later. He was fully appreciative of my outline of the position and he fully understood the lines along which I think a solution can be found."

Mr Haughey said the primary political purpose of the visit had been to explain to President Reagan and his administration the policy of the Republic in relation to Northern Ireland.

Britain was not told in advance that Mr Haughey proposed to ask for intervention by the United States on the Northern Ireland question, the Foreign Office said yesterday. (The Press Association reports).

President Reagan's statement indicating that the United States did not intend to intervene in Irish affairs was warmly welcomed yesterday. (The Press Association reports).

In cartoon form he will be part of the Welsh channel's output, which expects 40 to 50 countries to order his films quite quickly. The Superted toy bear will soon be in the shops and he is to make appearances at a Cardiff television festival next month as well as at the All-England tennis championships at Wimbledon.

Mr Haughey urged the Reagan administration to support the unification of Ireland as a foreign policy objective. His appeal was regarded as the strongest made for a united Ireland by an Irish Prime Minister visiting the United States.

The Foreign Office said: "We welcome Mr Reagan's statement on the occasion of St Patrick's day. The statement as a whole not least his renewal of the proposition that continued violence even by a misguided few can only frustrate the desire for peace of the overwhelming majority of the entire community in Northern Ireland".

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Forest 'land army' of young urged

From Jonathan Wills, Edinburgh

A "land army" of young people could be recruited to clear and manage more than 250,000 hectares (1,000 square miles) of unproductive woodland in Britain, it was suggested yesterday. (Our Agriculture Correspondent wrote).

Mr Douglas Badham, chairman of the Economic Forestry Group and deputy chairman of the Welsh Development Agency, told the government's lunch in London that his proposal would bring economic benefit to the nation.

Deported sect members fly in

Relatives of three young members of the Unification Church failed to persuade them to return to their homes when they arrived at Heathrow Airport yesterday after being deported from the United States for overstaying their visit.

The three, Mr Christopher Barnard, aged 21, from Dorking, Surrey, Miss Nichola Raine, aged 27, from Henley-in-Arden, Warwickshire, and Miss Philippa Chalmers, aged 26, from Crowborough, Sussex, left with other members of the church.

Plessey vote ends sit-in

An eight week occupation at the Plessey factory, Bathgate ended yesterday when the workers voted to accept an offer from another company, Arcotronics, to keep open the factory initially employing only 80 of the 330 workforce. Plessey planned closure of the plant on March 31 led to the sit-in.

New inquiry into police

A second investigation into allegations against Dorset police is to be carried out by Mr James Brownlow, Chief Constable of South Yorkshire. The allegations, made by the Dorset County Post, are of abuse of police powers in the 1970s.

Two years ago, Mr James investigated undisclosed allegations against Dorset Police, but the Director of Public Prosecutions took no action.

Queen to visit son on ship

The Queen is to see Prince Andrew at work on the carrier HMS Invincible. With Prince Edward, she will visit the anti-submarine vessel of Portmouth next month.

Prince Andrew, who is 22, joined the ship in January in his role as a helicopter pilot flying Sea Kings with the front line 820 Squadron.

Rape complainant 'shouldn't get aid'

From Jonathan Wills, Edinburgh

The woman in the Glasgow rape and assault case who is trying to bring a private prosecution against her alleged assailants should not be given legal aid, the High Court in Edinburgh was told yesterday.

Mr Hugh Morton, QC, counsel for one of the youths allegedly involved, told Lord Emslie, the Lord Justice General, that since the Crown had dropped its own proceedings, it would be grossly unfair for the state to pay for a round that by the backdoor, through paying somebody else to bring the prosecution.

Lord Emslie said he did not think there was any suggestion of that.

Earlier, the court heard further submissions from counsel for the three youths about publicising the case had received, allegedly including the publication of evidence. The judges were given files on four newspapers, the Daily Record, Daily Express, the Evening Times of Glasgow and The Sunday Times.

Mr Donald Macaulay, QC, said that the Daily Record's reports were the most significant. It had started the publicity on January 13 by revealing that the Crown had dropped the prosecution.

An article in the Daily Record on January 19 indicated that a reporter had been given access to police notebooks on the case, Mr Macaulay said. Lord Cameron, sitting with Lord Emslie and Lord Ainslie, asked a later date.

Mail robbers exposed by woman 'supergrass'

Thomas Wisbey, jailed in 1984 for his part in the Great Train Robbery, was convicted at the Central Criminal Court yesterday of handling travellers' cheques stolen from mail trains.

He was one of 21 people to appear as a result of information given by Miss Zenith Meer, described as Britain's first "supergrass". Her former boyfriend, William Gentry, leader of the gang that stole the cheques, was also convicted.

Travellers' cheques worth more than a quarter of a million pounds, jewelry and other valuables were stolen from the trains.

Gentry lived with Miss Meer, aged 34, in a council flat in Seldon Walk, Holloway, north London. The flat was used as a distribution centre for the stolen goods according to Miss Meer, who went to the police after her affair with Gentry began to go wrong and assaulted her.

He and two other men, John Dore-Mullins and Salvatore Santoro, travelled regularly from London on mail trains, and sat near the mail carriage, the court was told.

Gentry told Miss Meer: "I had a guard in my pocket" and access to the mailbags.

The men, who always carried suitcases, were photographed by transport

Challenge to left by managers' unions

By David Felton,
Labour Reporter

Sharp political divisions among unions representing senior managers in the engineering and shipbuilding industries were highlighted yesterday when two right-wing unions combined to challenge the left-wing leaderships of two other unions representing members among white-collar staff.

The link has been forged between the white-collar section of Mr Frank Chapple's electricians' union and the Engineers' and Managers' Association (EMA) in an attempt to win negotiating rights from engineering employers.

Mr Chapple and Mr John Lyons, general secretary of the EMA, were both scathing yesterday about the attitudes adopted by Mr Clive Jenkins's white-collar Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs (ASTMS) and Tass, the white-collar section of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (AUEW).

Mr Chapple said he believed those unions would resent the agreement between his white-collar managerial section, the Electrical and Engineering Staff Association (EESA), and the EMA, "or at least I hope they will".

The agreement procedures the two unions are to adopt on recruiting and representation will cover about 15,000 staff in engineering and shipbuilding.

Mr Chapple said he believed the new link with the EMA would provide managers with the choice of a "less politically biased medium" than Tass and ASTMS.

The prime aim of the agreement between EESA and the EMA, which will also cover membership in the aerospace industry, will be to encourage employers that recognition ought to be granted on the basis that the two unions would not be involved in recruitment battles.



New beginning for Land's End

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

Mr David Goldstone (above), the new owner of Land's End, taking a close look yesterday at the 105 acres of Britain's most famous piece of coastline on which he plans to spend approaching £3m. (Our Bodmin Correspondent writes).

Land's End complete with a house that was once an hotel, a assortment of outbuildings and a public house.

In his plans the public house is to stay and so is a large building named State House, but the other buildings are likely to go. In their place he

plans a building to house a permanent exhibition of Cornish crafts.

Renovation will not start until the autumn of 1983. Mr Goldstone said:

"Land's End was here long before any of us and it will be here long after we have all gone. There is no merit in rushing because we want to make Land's End something of which people can be really proud and which they can visit and not go away feeling disappointed over what they have seen."

How the choir stalls of Buxheim were sent home

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

The annual report of the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art, nearly a year out of date as usual, was published yesterday and contained two challenging highlights. For the first time the committee, guardians of Britain's international heritage, in the case of a group of Baroque carved wood choir stalls

Removed from Buxheim in the 1880s they were installed

first on the chapel of St

Saviour's Hospital, London, and then, in 1964, in the Convent of the Presentation at Hythe. In 1980 the convent decided to sell and Sotheby's negotiated their purchase for £450,000 by the Bavarian authorities for reinstatement at Buxheim.

The committee rallied to the standard of the "international heritage" in the case of a group of Baroque carved wood choir stalls

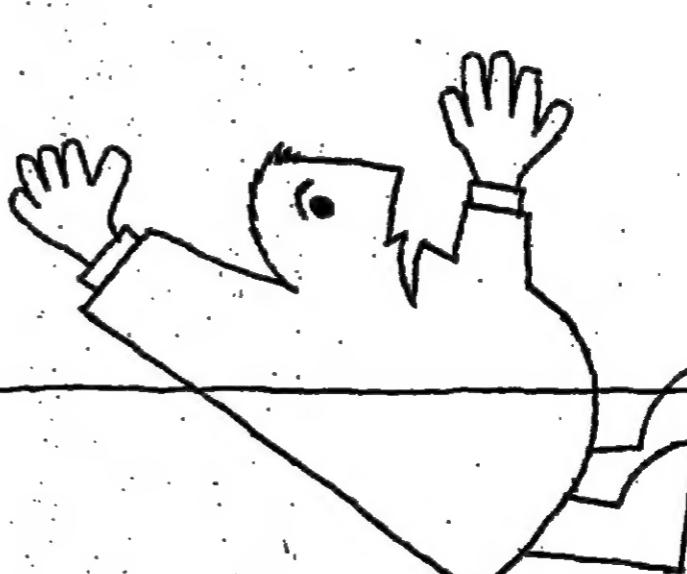
Removed from Buxheim in the 1880s they were installed

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aesthetic and scholarly interest, they conceded that Buxheim had a prior claim.

When the export of an object has been delayed by the committee to allow a British gallery time to raise the purchase price, and the money has been found, owners have sometimes refused to sell.

Under the new rules the owner's willingness to sell will be queried before fund-raising is attempted.



Have you recently found yourself becoming an involuntary non-profit organization?

The earnings reports of many companies are experiencing a widespread outbreak of parentheses. (We mean those depressing bow-legged punctuations that signify operating losses in balance sheets.)

In fact, the problem of diminishing profitability is widespread enough to have acquired an aura of immutability, something like a law of contemporary economics... making it sound almost audacious to suggest the problem is solvable.

Perhaps it's time for a little audacity... and a Data General ECLIPSE® computer.

ECLIPSE is a complete information system that will never be accused of insufficient ambition: its mission is to help cause immediate and dramatic improvement in your bottom line.

It does this by helping you instantly identify

inventories carried unprofitably, back orders being filled tardily, cash flow problems... those areas where profits often erode unseen by management.

It isn't surprising then, to find an ECLIPSE computer turning up in so many profit-making organisations, like Express Dairy Foods, North Thames Gas and Guinness Group Sales (Ireland).

In fact, many of the largest and most successful British companies in banking, industry, distribution and services are using Data General computers. Is this a stunning coincidence or a considerable profit opportunity?

Those who still believe in opportunities are invited to write for particulars to: Marketing Communications, Data General Limited, 3rd and 4th Floors, Hounslow House, 724-734 London Road, Hounslow, Middlesex TW3 1PD. Tel: 01-572 7455.

Data General
COMPUTERS

Corporal punishment unlikely to return

CRIME

The Prime Minister does not think that corporal punishment will return to this country, and during question time in the Commons she agreed with Mr James Callaghan, her predecessor, that neither of them had any influence over it.

Labour MPs protested loudly and laughed when Mrs Thatcher appeared at one stage to search through her papers and then said that murders were at their greatest since the last Government, but Mr Callaghan corrected this to say that she had been thinking of the numbers of police killed.

When he was questioned earlier, Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, endorsed the need for effective policing. He did not accept that vigilantes in society could be right. People who wanted to help should join the Special Constabulary, he said. He indicated he hoped to bring forward proposals for new police powers and said it was important that the police got the help and advice of the communities they served through discussions with their police authorities. He was encouraging all police forces to do so.

There will be debates on law and order in the House of Lords next Wednesday and the House of Commons on Thursday.

When Mrs Thatcher was questioned, R John Carlisle (Luton, West, C) asked: Does she agree that since Mr Callaghan linked the rise in crime with the rise in unemployment, was it typically unhelpful and misleading?

Figures released yesterday show that crime in Bedfordshire has risen by 30 per cent, mainly by children under 16.

It is about time this House introduced corporal punishment.

Mrs Thatcher: So far as I am aware, crime statistics do not show in any way a simple correlation between unemployment and crime. (Labour interruptions.)

Does he think it was fair that Mr Callaghan, waving a piece of paper, said: As a matter of simple statistical fact, is it not the case that serious crimes, offences

I do not think that it will return in this country.

Mr David Alton (Liverpool, Edgehill, C): Will the Prime Minister, first of all, consider what additional assistance can be given to the victims of violent crime, particularly with telephones and intruder alarms, to people of pensionable age, to people who are unemployed like me with 50 per cent unemployment and an increase in crime, is it not a case that the devil finding work for idle hands?

Mr Ivor Stanbrook (Bromley, Orpington, C): In spite of the comments which I made, the Home Secretary to whom I and my Conservative colleagues pay tribute (Labour interruptions) the causes of crime are deep-seated and various. They include subjects like the family, school, church, television and many others.

Will she therefore consider whether we do not need to take action on these fronts, as well as the criminal law?

Mrs Thatcher: I entirely agree that the causes of crime are deep-seated and various, that is the difficulty with some of the problems we are seeing now.

It is vital for all citizens to stand staunchly behind the police in carrying out their duty of upholding the law.

Mr Alfred Dubs (Wandsworth, Battersea, South, Lab): Can the Prime Minister explain why, for each year since she became Prime Minister, the number of serious crimes has increased while, when Mr Callaghan was Prime Minister, the number declined in 1977, 1978 and into 1979?

Mr James Callaghan (Cardiff, South-East, Lab): That is right.

Mrs Thatcher: Mr Dubs will find that murders were at their greatest during the time of the last Government.

Mrs Thatcher looked through a stack of papers while Labour MP protested.

She said: I was trying to find the precise figure but I was unable to.

Mr Callaghan, waving a piece of paper, said: As a matter of simple statistical fact, is it not the case that serious crimes, offences

recorded by the police, of violence against the person, of burglary, robbery, handling of stolen goods and criminal damage declined each year when I was Prime Minister and have gone up each year since? (Loud Labour cheer.)

What is your opinion, like mine with 50 per cent unemployment and an increase in crime, is it not a case that the devil finding work for idle hands?

Mr Ivor Stanbrook (Bromley, Orpington, C): Will the Home Secretary to whom I and my Conservative colleagues pay tribute (Labour interruptions)

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Callaghan: No influence



Thatcher: I agree

blank to collect that information on anything else, particularly on the people they themselves stop and search in the streets and are later acquitted or no charge are proceeded with?

Mr Edward Taylor (Southend, East, C): Will he look again with an open mind at the introduction of capital deterrence, even for a period of time, as a means of curbing crime, including the introduction of capital punishment and mandatory sentences?

Mr Mayhew: There is shortly to be in the Committee on the Criminal Justice Bill a debate upon corporal punishment and I am looking forward to that with great anticipation. (Laughter) One hears that the House may have a similar opportunity in respect of capital punishment.

Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk (Ormskirk, Lab): Neither capital nor corporal punishment has ever been an effective deterrent. The cause for concern about the increase in violent crime is economic policies that have led to it and the clear failure of, for example, the Metropolitan Police to catch criminals.

Mr Mayhew: The Metropolitan Police face an enormously complex, even dangerous and difficult task, and they deserve the support of the House and the community, not endless criticism.

Does he think it was fair that the Metropolitan Police should insist on using ethnic statistics of muggings and refuse point

that the community they serve through discussions with the police authorities. That is part of the business of the Police Act 1964.

If it is going to have success, that is what has to be done, and that is what I am encouraging in all police forces throughout the country.

Mr Sydney Chapman (Barnet, Chipping Barnet, C): While the increase in violent crime, particularly in the inner city areas, is growing seriously indeed, the Metropolitan Police are doing a good job.

Mr Edward Taylor (Southend, East, C): Will he accept that the police are doing a good job, particularly in the inner city areas, and that they will carry out their task?

Mr Roy Hattersley: Opposition spokesman on home affairs: Despite Mr White's effects, the Government has been unable to fulfil its election promises to reduce the level of crime in this country. He should make clear that in his view the best way to do this is to get in their task the full help and advice and moral support of the community as a whole.

Mr Nicholas Winterbottom (Macclesfield, C): If the Home Secretary was satisfied that the projected increase in police strength in England and Wales was sufficient to deal with the recent increase in crimes of all categories and particularly with regard to street crimes and disturbances in the inner city areas.

Mr White: Yes. At the end of January, the total strength of the police service in England and Wales was 119,508. This is an increase of 9,562 compared with January 1979.

With the further increase already provided for in the next 12 months this gives chief officers of police more officers than ever before to carry out the main tasks we expect from our police service.

Mr Winterbottom: Violent crime against the person is now as important a matter in people's minds as unemployment. With the increase in violent crime, including the setting up of vigilante groups within inner city areas, the situation is growing seriously indeed.

What further example can this Government give to ensure the courts of this land not only have the sentences to mete out that fit the crime, but they mete out sentences so that punishment in this country fits the serious crimes being committed?

Mr White: I appreciate what you say. I entirely support him in his anxiety about the increases, particularly burglary and street crimes, which are certainly serious indeed and which has been limited only to this House, the police service, and the Government, but by the whole of the community. It is only by a concerted effort that we shall succeed against these particular crimes.

For the benefit of those people who seem to think there is something wrong, the first thing is to have a strong police service. When you have it strong, you discuss such matters in areas like Greater Manchester?

That would lead to a more visible police force on the streets and a greater deterrent to crime than the unhelpful blurb just shown by some of the Home Secretary's more eccentric supporters. (Labour cheers.)

Mr White: It is important that the police get the help and advice

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Mr White: It is important that the police get the help and advice

Canada must decide its future

HOUSE OF LORDS

The British Government believed that outstanding disagreements in Canada over the Canada Bill in favour of the people, the provinces and the Canadian Parliament to decide. Lord Carrington, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs said they were now told on the highest legal authority that the responsibility for carrying out under treaties made with the aboriginal peoples belonged to the parliament and cabinet committee for foreign affairs.

He was moving the second reading of the Bill which transfers to Canada the power to amend the Canadian constitution and repeals the power of the British Parliament to legislate for that country.

future

All native people of use, and, despite some consultation at ministerial committee level, all of the native people have been satisfied by this federal and provincial government. In Canada a gradual solution, which would continue, was the result of some might say a Canadian compromise, but no compromise entirely satisfactory could be found between the Canadian confederated shadow over the called separation, which had da, they would have if the country was p and proper as it ill the same does not the aspirations of all, but in political terms, of our souls and made in Canada I command this Bill.

Aylesford (1979) said the Aboriginals may happen after the constitution had been They worried that their rights might be

altered that of the wealth Prime Minister, a lot of the time about the handling of affairs, but the s were particularly Britain of believe he had any chance of less well in the past, but surely did do in their own get the Bill onto the

house of Cheltenham, the Allister, who did not the branch, and in the the government's contribution to the

the world is a used that our international have done, including in the given, and the wants of the House of Commons. We are great to see that the members who are to be represented in the

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Minister agrees to release housing law study

By David Walker

The Government has bowed to pressure from local Conservatives and agreed to publish a review of the law on housing homeless families even though ministers are likely to be embarrassed by the "wildness" of the recommendations.

Mr John Stanley, Minister for Housing and Construction, has promised Conservative councillors to release a study made by officials of the Department of the Environment on the working of the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act of 1977, which requires councils to give priority to homeless families in allocating housing.

In spite of criticism of the Act by some London councils and by district councils, especially in the South-East, before the Labour government which wrote the Act had left office. As evidence has accumulated, it seems that those being housed by councils under the 1977 Act have increased as a proportion of the total being housed. But the reason is that fewer units of housing are available as council building decreased.

Criticism of the Act has

been made vociferously by councillors in the London borough of Hillingdon. It went to the courts over the issue of housing immigrants to Britain who arrived at Heathrow airport, within the borough's boundaries.

Other criticism concerns alleged queue-jumping by families which intentionally make themselves homeless (for example, by leaving the home of parents) to gain preference over other families on councils' waiting lists.

The official review has failed to produce numerical evidence of its abuses of the Act. The local authorities which house the most homeless are the inner area councils such as Camden in London. That authority, with other Labour councils, has declared satisfaction with its working.

The Government was accused by MPs last week of suppressing an officially-commissioned survey on the plight of single homeless people in London. The survey proposed additional public spending on that group's housing needs.

Industry watchdogs seek more powers

By David Hewson

The National Consumers Council and the London Electricity Consultative Council today criticize the secrecy surrounding the policies of nationalized industries and call for new powers to enable consumer bodies to tackle the problem.

The attack follows the recent decision by the Government to recast the traditional links between Whitehall and the nationalized industries by recruiting private businessmen as non-executive directors and increasing the monitoring of the sector's performance. The aim, Mr Patrick Jenkins, the Secretary of State for Industry, said, was to ensure that the state industries operated as commercial enterprises.

That desire is reflected by both consumer groups in evidence to Dr Gerard Vaughan, Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, who is reviewing the role such bodies have in monitoring state industries.

The council says that a consumers' council's report on a public sector industry should carry the same weight as the findings of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. If it found that an industry was not offering value for money, the minister should order the industry to plan a remedy. The industry would have to send the plan to the minister who would lay it before Parliament.

The national council also calls for a "value for money" audit system to include the auditors' conclusion on an

MPs want more fuel for RAF

By Henry Stanhope
Defence Correspondent

An all-party committee of MPs has urged that the fuel allocation of RAF Germany should be raised without delay if operational efficiency is not to be put at risk. The cost of fuel and spares, with the annual budgetary system in Whitehall, has forced the RAF's front line to curtail its training programme, they point out in a report.

The hourly cost of flying fast jet aircraft now ranges from about £3,900 for the Harrier to as much as £6,080 for the Phantom. Even the strength of the pound against the dollar can affect the RAF's ability to pay.

Experienced pilots have surrendered some of their rations of flying hours so that younger colleagues can have extra time in the air. The RAF has also tried to make the most use possible of the summer weather for completing training schedules.

The MPs on the Commons defence committee, who compiled their report after visiting British Forces Germany, say that the level of flying there is at the accepted minimum. They urge a return to the fuel allocation of five years ago.

The MPs voice their concern over restrictions placed on the training activities of the British Army of the Rhine (BAOR) by limiting the track mileage on armoured vehicles, helicopter flying and the use of ammunition. The smaller ammunition ration has reduced the level of training to 75 per cent of the officially approved level, although that has not been reached for several years.

The MPs also complain of the noise made by the generator used in connection with the highly successful Rapier missile, which apparently is so loud that it could reveal the crew's location. They are concerned, too, by the lack of anti-helicopter weapons available to BAOR, given the large number of helicopters in service with the Warsaw Pact forces.

Finally, the MPs would like to see more attention paid to teaching German to servicemen and their families. While there are financial inducements, they say, the 10 per cent quota of German-speaking officers is still "regrettably low".

The foremen received written warnings on Tuesday for failing to "man the line" and on Wednesday foremen from all shifts voted to strike for two days in protest.

Walk-out halts Ford

From Our Correspondent, Liverpool

Ford's car factory in Liverpool was halted yesterday after 600 plant foremen walked out in a manning dispute. The men voted to take action in support of two colleagues who were given written warnings by the management for failing to "carry out company orders."

The two-day dispute, which will cost 2,000 Escorts worth £9m, stems from an incident two weeks ago when a relief worker was called in to fill the place of an absent in the body and assembly plant. He was subsequently replaced by an experienced worker. Shop stewards complained the job was not skilled and should have been done by the relief and 30 men on the night shift walked out.

EEC move to boost jobs

From Ronald Kershaw, Brussels

An important initiative by EEC regional aid is being mounted by Mr Ivor Richard, European Commissioner for Social Policy, aimed at job creation in pockets of high unemployment within the better-off regions.

Local authorities will be encouraged to apply for cash for job-starved communities, but enterprises "with a high private content" will also benefit.

Mr Richard in his review of the European Social Fund is asking for a 40 per cent increase on its £728m budget to develop his "black spot theory". His target is to have the review approved by the Council of Ministers of Employment in the second half of this year.

He explained that regions in Britain which did not qualify as assisted areas frequently had black spots of high unemployment. Yorkshire and Humberside, for example, did not qualify, yet Barnsley had 22 per cent unemployment.

"It seems absurd to have a broad classification because unemployment figures are not so bad... We can do something for Toxteth but not for Brixton, because Brixton is London and London is not an assisted area."

The black spot theory is to

carry out now in its job creation activities for redundant steelworkers. An active European social policy would help with infrastructure, training facilities, particularly in basic management skills, and possibly some kind of employment subsidy.

Proposals in the review, he said, "involved channelling almost all the money through national governments. Governments submit their plans, then we put up our half of it, as in the Manpower Services Commission."

His object was to get greater flexibility, and to put money into enterprises with a higher private content than at present. He was also anxious to help those local authorities which were active in running job creation programmes. But the initiative had to come from the areas.

Under the existing rules of the social fund a person with a bright idea for creating jobs might not qualify for aid, being outside the specified area. If it is an innovative project we ought to give points so that he stands a better chance of getting money if it would be helpful to the community," Mr Richard explained.

Britain last year received £141m, a 20 per cent from European social fund.



The carrier-bag car

Mr Alan Evans, in his small car, talking with a cyclist yesterday. The car, known as the Peel after the engineering company on the Isle of Man where it was built, is thought to be one of the last remaining in the world. It has a 50cc engine and does 100mpg. Mr Evans, aged 31, of Westlands Road, Hull, has spent three months restoring the vehicle, one of only

40 made in the 1960s. "I bought it from Nottingham in three carrier bags", he said. The car, known as the Peel after the engineering company on the Isle of Man where it was built, is thought to be one of the last remaining in the world. It has a 50cc engine and does 100mpg. Mr Evans, who has been made redundant from his job as a contracts manager, intends to set up a factory to produce a similar vehicle.

Lead pollution investigation begins

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution has begun an investigation into the extent of lead pollution and its effect on health. The terms of the inquiry are outlined in an invitation to more than 50 organizations and individuals to submit evidence.

Among other objectives, the commission, under the chairmanship of Professor Richard Southwood, of Oxford University hopes to clarify some of the issues that have become confused in the controversy over lead in petrol.

The subject will be divided into four broad topics. The first is to identify all sources of environmental lead pollution and how it contaminates man. From that information, the purpose is to identify the relative significance of different sources

and of each of the routes by which lead gets into the body.

The second topic is on methods for reducing lead in the environment and its absorption by people. The third part of the study will look at the technical and economic options, and their environmental effects, for eliminating lead from petrol.

The fourth section will examine the impact of lead pollution on wildlife.

Cuts threat to whooping cough research

By Anabel Ferriman

The development of a safer whooping cough vaccine could be delayed because of cuts in the budget of the government-funded research laboratories at Porton Down, Wiltshire.

Britain's lead in the field of biotechnology and genetic engineering was threatened by a cut of 4 per cent in the laboratories' revenue. Dr Peter Sutton, the laboratories' director, said yesterday.

Programmes involving the development of anti-cancer drugs, the production of synthetic human growth hormone and safer vaccines were all threatened.

The laboratories, called the Centre for Applied Microbiology and Research, are going to suffer a cut of £200,000 in the planned budget of £5.5m for 1982-83.

Scientists at the laboratory are trying to find a safer vaccine against whooping cough because the risks of brain damage from the present vaccine have resulted in less than half of Britain's children now being vaccinated against the disease.

A new, safer vaccine should be ready for production in larger quantities in three years and for clinical trials in five, but plans could be delayed by budget cuts, he said.

New laboratories were opened at the centre yesterday designed to produce a vaccine against tick encephalitis (inflammation of the brain), a disease which is spreading across Europe.

Correction

In an article on compensation for the accidentally disabled by George Hill on March 12 it was wrongly said that the compensation had amounted to £100,000 to all children crippled after whooping-cough vaccination. The compensation is in fact £10,000 and is awarded only if it is judged that the vaccine was probably to blame. Last month only 581 awards had been made of 2,764 claims.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

AA extends car calls to homes

The Automobile Association is to extend its breakdown service to include cars which will not start at members' homes. The new service, to be called Home Start, will cost an extra £5.50 a year and will be available from June for private motorists and from next month for business fleets.

If a car cannot be repaired at member's home, it will be towed free of charge to the nearest AA appointed garage or local garage of the member's choice.

One way to avoid a breakdown at home, the AA said yesterday, was to keep the car's electrical system dry and to ensure that the battery was kept charged.

BBC Russian service strike

BBC Russian language programmes were said to be going out normally yesterday in spite of a 24-hour strike by members of the service against conditions of employment offered to foreign staff (Kenneth Gosling writes).

The strike was occasioned by the BBC's alleged refusal to employ Mr Efim Maimark, who emigrated from the Soviet Union to Israel where he was recruited to the BBC.

Murder charge

Mr Brian George Davis, aged 47, a kitchen porter of Brittany Point, Tracey Street, Kensington, was remanded in custody at Horseferry Road Court yesterday, charged with murdering Elizabeth Margaret Dodsworth, a canteen assistant at Camelot House, Albert Embankment, on Wednesday.

Sir Alec Rose fined

Sir Alec Rose, aged 73, the round-the-world yachtsman of Eastleigh Road, Havant, Hampshire, was fined £35 at Southampton yesterday after admitting he had ignored traffic lights.

'When recovery comes we will be ready to support it with lending for working capital and investment'

For some time now, we have been giving special support to many of our borrowing customers, ranging from countries and multi-national corporations to small businesses and individuals'

Extracts from the statement of the Chairman, Sir Jeremy Morse, in the 1981 Report and Accounts of Lloyds Bank

1981 was a good year for Lloyds Bank. A marked improvement in operating results

was partly offset by a substantial increase in provisions for bad and doubtful debts - the inevitable reflection of continuing economic difficulties around the world.

Pre-tax profits of the Group were £386 million, 33% up on the previous year's £290 million. This percentage rise should be measured against an inflation rate of about 10% in the main countries. Current cost accounts, which make adjustments for inflation, show pre-tax profits 51% up at £48 million.

Gains

NEWS IN
SUMMARYTurks under
Tindemans
scrutiny

Ankara. — Mr Leo Tindemans, Belgian Foreign Minister who is President of the EEC Council of Ministers, was due to arrive here today on a two-day mission to Turkey on behalf of the Community. One of his tasks is to investigate conditions under martial law.

Diplomatic sources said his talks with General Kenan Evren, the Turkish head of state, Mr Bulent Ulusu, Prime Minister and Mr Ilter Turkmen, Foreign Minister, would probably concentrate on Turkey's plans to return to democracy by 1984.

Military rule, imposed 18 months ago, has strained relations with the EEC. Last year, the Community froze payment of some \$650m in grants and loans in protest at the imprisonment of Mr Bulent Ecevit, former Prime Minister.



Questions for Mr Ulusu (left) and General Evren

Angola rejects
'absurd' claim

Lisbon. — Angola, denying that a South African raid inside its borders had destroyed a Swapo base, said there were no guerrilla camps inside its territory.

"It is anyway obviously absurd that there should be any guerrilla camps so close to the (Namibian) border," an embassy spokesman said here.

South Africa, which said the base was 14 miles inside the border, made the claim at a time when it was trying to show its strength, the spokesman said. "They do not want Namibian independence and they are in difficulties".

Greek students
left than left

Athens. — If the Greek Socialists had hoped to see their national election victory last October reflected in Wednesday's student elections, they will have been disappointed (Mario Modiano writes). The pro-Moscow Communists retained their lead with 31 per cent of the vote, whereas the Socialists stayed second with 26 per cent.

The Socialists were looking for increased support for the Government's controversial universities reform plans. There was a record 54 per cent turnout.

Space shuttle
site switched

Cape Canaveral. — The landing site for the third flight of the space shuttle Columbia was switched from California to New Mexico because of floods at the air base outside Los Angeles.

Mission officials decided the Edwards air base in the Mojave desert, swamped by heavy rain, would not be suitable for the shuttle's landing on March 29 and decided to plan the landing for White Sands, New Mexico, the shuttle's contingency landing site. The seven-day mission is scheduled to begin on Monday, with launching from Cape Canaveral's Kennedy space centre.

Ben Bella sees
only corruption

Paris. — "Everything is corrupt" in Algeria, Mr Ahmed Ben Bella, historic leader of the struggle for independence and its first President, said on Radio Monte Carlo on the twentieth anniversary of independence.

Since his overthrow by Colonel Boumedienne in 1965, it had been "totally negative". Agriculture had been "murdered", he said.

Civil servant's
body exhumed

Paris. — The body of René Lucet, the social security director of Marseilles whose recent death caused a political scandal, has been exhumed to determine whether he committed suicide or was murdered.

Lucet was a controversial figure well known for his conservative views. He was dismissed and on March 4 was found shot in the head, an apparent suicide.

US to return
Nazi art loot

Washington. — President Reagan authorized the return to West Germany of thousands of Nazi art works seized by the United States Army at the end of the Second World War. The Army possesses more than 6,000 works of art commissioned by Hitler to glorify the Nazi cause and war effort.

Britain's budget
dispute casts
EEC into gloom

From Ian Murray, Brussels, March 18

The battle over the size of Britain's contribution to the EEC budget has created what could be called "a Europe of the accountants". Mr Gaston Thorn, President of the European Commission, complained today.

Speaking to a seminar of the European Movement, he cited the failure to resolve the British problem as the prime example of that lack of solidarity and understanding which was making the achievements of the Community precarious and inadequate.

His pessimistic speech came at the end of a three-day meeting of agriculture ministers here where national divisions loomed large, and little if any progress was made towards a settlement on farm prices by the annual target date of April 1. The one clear hint to emerge from the argument was that France is prepared to use national aids to pay its farmers if Britain blocks a price increase beyond that date.

President Mitterrand made it clear yesterday that the interests of French farmers would be defended resolutely. After yesterday's meeting of the French Cabinet, his spokesman said that France could not allow one government to obstruct the implementation of fundamental Community rules.

Mme Edith Cresson, the French Agriculture Minister, had given a strong indication the previous day in Brussels that France would try to force a majority vote on agricultural prices if Britain were isolated on the negotiations, due to resume on March 31. Having been strongly attacked by French farmers in recent weeks for failing to maintain their living standards, she must have been reassured to hear her President rally to their support.

France, President Mitterrand said, would not accept any dismantlement of the Common Agriculture Policy. It was looking to its partners to say clearly that Europe must either continue to develop or else admit they would like to avert a crisis to develop, which would harm the Community at a moment when European cooperation was so vital.

Britain is confident that it will be able to resist any move to force a farm-price fixity by a majority vote and the Commission has already made it plain to France that any national aids paid to farmers would probably be in contravention of the Treaty of Rome.

Nevertheless, both countries now seem set on an all too familiar collision course for next Tuesday's meeting of foreign ministers, which is to make yet another attempt to resolve the question of the British budget problem. The tour of European capitals by Mr Thorn and Mr Leo Tindemans, the Belgian Foreign Minister who is the current President of the Council, has failed to find any new element which might break the deadlock.

Somewhat idealistically the

other topics expected to arise include East-West relations in the wake of the Polish crisis and international economic affairs.

■ Athens: Senhor Francisco Pinto Balsemão, the Portuguese Prime Minister, arrived in Athens today on an official visit to seek a reaffirmation of Greek support for his country's early entry to the EEC (Mario Modiano writes).

Vatican will
go deeper
into the red

From John Earle
Rome, March 18

The Vatican is budgeting for a deficit this year of 36.381m lire (£15.5m), compared with the 1981 deficit of 31.000m lire. This figure was made known today at the end of a three-day meeting of a commission of 15 cardinals from all continents, set up by the Pope last May, to discuss ways of restoring its finances to health.

Given Italy's inflation of nearly 20 per cent and the lira's sliding exchange rate, the estimate suggests that the deficit of the Roman Catholic Church's central administration is being kept under control. Furthermore a statement issued after the meeting, the second since the commission's foundation, said last year's deficit has been entirely covered by the positive and generous response of the faithful throughout the world. After special appeals, they have increased their contributions to Peter's Pence, money collected in parishes and dioceses for the Pope.

Cardinal Giuseppe Caprio, prefect for economic affairs, illustrated to the commission the Holy See's rising expenditure, due not only to inflation but also to its increasing activities and salary and pension awards for the S.179 staff. At the same time, the statement said, revenue remained stationary, and the administration had succeeded in making economies.

The Pope attended the last session today. The cardinals on the commission will now illustrate the state of the Vatican's finances to their various episcopal conferences. The Vatican's deficit, then of 17,000m lire, was first made known in 1977, but its budget has never yet been published.

MP's cleared of plot

Rome, March 18.—Italy's Parliament voted today to shelve charges against two former Prime Ministers and a former Defence Minister of complicity in an alleged secret service cover-up over a bomb outrage in 1969.

A joint session split on party lines and decided there was insufficient evidence to send them to the Constitutional Court. Those cleared were Signor Giulio Andreotti and Signor Mariano Rumor, and Signor Mario Tanassi, former Christian Democratic Prime Minister and Signor Mario Tanassi, former Social Democratic Defence Minister.

Signor Tanassi fell from Office and served six months in jail for taking bribes in a scandal involving contracts with the Lockheed Aircraft Company.

Signor Andreotti was accused of perjury in the trial of those accused of bombing a Milan bank in 1969.



Battling on through fire and ice

The twisted metal of burnt-out Snowmobiles shows just one of the serious setbacks suffered by Sir Ranulph Fiennes on his way to the North Pole with the British Transglobe Expedition.

But yesterday he and his companion, Dr Charles Burton, managed to escape from the ice

floe, 375 miles from the pole, on which they had been trapped by melting ice.

They waited for another ice floe to drift alongside them and drove a Snowmobile across before the gap reopened. News of the escape was given in a radio call to their base camp.

Mr Anthony Preston, the expedition secretary, said their back-up aircraft, damaged in a blizzard, had been patched up and would now be able to act as a scout for them. Earlier the explorers had pledged they would carry on to the end of their mission.

The message was given late on Wednesday night in a radio-telephone link between Dr Burton and his wife in London. The explorers are more than half way through an attempt to circumnavigate the world: the journey started and is due to finish at Greenwich.

US will fight to stop
missiles in Cuba

From Our Correspondent, Washington, March 18

Mr Caspar Weinberger, the American Defence Secretary, made clear today that the United States would do whatever would be necessary to prevent Soviet nuclear missiles from being stationed in the Cuban area.

The Reagan Administration is studying the implications of a warning by President Leonid Brezhnev on Tuesday that the Soviet Union would take retaliatory steps if the United States went ahead with its plan to deploy 572 cruise and Pershing missiles in Western Europe.

Some American experts took this to be a veiled warning that President Brezhnev may be threatening to put nuclear missiles into Cuba and thus rekindle the 1962 Cuban missile crisis. But Mr Weinberger in a television interview today described President Brezhnev's remark as very obscure and ambiguous and said: "We don't know what he was talking about."

Mr Weinberger said any move to put nuclear missiles in Cuba would violate the Washington-Moscow understanding that ended the 1962 missile crisis.

But the two leaders and their foreign ministers will have a chance to air their views in advance of the EEC foreign ministers' meeting and the European summit.

The agency accused President Reagan of seeing his chief mission as the deployment of new medium-range missiles in Western Europe.

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Tass said the Administration was trying to extend the arms race all over the world, and rejected even American proposals for disarmament that came from the Senate. In pointed contrast, the news agency has been quoting extensively from Western peace movements, to whom the Soviet offer is clearly addressed, showing warm endorsement and support for the proposals.

He hoped that a good part of this concrete evidence could be made public without jeopardizing the United States intelligence-gathering

Washington's propaganda war

Support for Duarte demanded

From Mohsin Ali, Washington, March 18

United States Administration and congressional concern about Cuba's alleged support for guerrillas in El Salvador and for Nicaragua is growing daily.

Mr Robert Kasten, a key Republican senator from Wisconsin, said yesterday he was convinced Nicaragua and Cuba were controlling the left-wing guerrillas in El Salvador and added that the Reagan Administration should disclose more evidence to build public support for its Central America policy.

He said the Reagan Administration had got to bring information into public view and let the people know what was going on. The Administration should move to counter "what is clearly a tide in American public opinion" against support of President José Napoleon Duarte's Government.

Mr Kasten, who is chairman of the Senate appropriations sub-committee on foreign operations, said through a spokesman today he had seen evidence in closed Senate meetings that had convinced him of outside forces being involved in Central America, specifically in Nicaragua and infiltrating El Salvador.

He thought additional background proof of outside intervention, by Cuba and Nicaragua, would help Congress here take a much more favourable look at President Reagan's Caribbean basic economic and trade initiative and also at his latest request for \$350m (£180m) in emergency aid to the Caribbean basin countries, including \$128m to El Salvador.

□ San Salvador: A right-wing group issued a death list yesterday of 34 people including 20 representatives of United States news organizations, a BBC correspondent and the information officer of the United States Embassy in San Salvador. (AP reports)

None of the reporters on the list appeared to take it very seriously. Many said their names had been included on similar lists compiled by left-wing as well as right-wing factions in El Salvador's civil war. One report described the death list as a possible hoax.

The group called itself the Anti-Communist Alliance and had not been heard of before. It claimed affiliation with the Maximiliano Hernandez Martinez Brigade, the most notorious of the right-wing death squads that murder suspected supporters of the left-wing guerrillas with the tacit approval of the Government's security forces.

The journalists on the list included the representatives of the Miami Herald, the New York Times, the Washington Post, NBC, United Press International and the Associated Press.

Meanwhile, left-wing guerrillas ambushed a National Guard lorries and burnt three other lorries yesterday in an area of San Vicente province that the Government claimed to have cleared over the weekend.

Senate votes to toughen
law protecting spies

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, March 18

The Senate has endorsed freedom of speech. They point out that the bill would for the first time explicitly make it a crime for reporters and private citizens to publish information obtained from public records.

They also maintain that the proposed law would protect CIA agents who had committed a crime in the United States or acted against American interests. The Bill prevents disclosure of an agent's identity until five years after he leaves the service.

Under the Bill, the activities of former agents such as Mr Edwin Wilson and Mr Frank Terpil, who were reported by American newspapers to have trained terrorists in Libya, would not have been revealed.

Senator John Chafee (Republican, Rhode Island), the sponsor of the amendment, denied that what he described as "the legitimate press" would be seriously restricted by the Bill. "Don't get the impression that you're being absolutely handcuffed", he said. "I don't think the CIA is going to go around trying to nab everybody. You know very well the type of publication the Bill is aimed at."

He added: "You can knock the tar out of the CIA so long as you don't name names."

The Bill, which provides for prison sentences of up to three years and fines of up to \$15,000 (£8,300) for each violation, still has to be given final approval by the Senate. But its passage seems assured. The mood on Capitol Hill is strongly in favour of giving secret agents better protection.

The document, which guards against abuses of civil rights and virtually guarantees a multi-party democracy for the next few years, was approved by Mr Mugabe and other parties at the British-chaired Lancaster House peace talks that brought an end to white rule in Rhodesia. But since coming to power almost two years ago, Mr Mugabe has repeatedly stated his party's commitment to the creation of a one-party state.

To make the changes constitutionally, Mr Mugabe will apparently have to win the unanimous support of his political rivals — mainly his wartime ally, Mr Joshua Nkomo, who was dismissed from the Government last month, and the fractured Republican Front (RF) party of Mr Ian Smith; the former Rhodesian Prime Minister.

For the first 10 years of independence, the Declaration of Rights, which generally guarantees civil rights, can be altered only by a unanimous assembly vote.

Amendments to most other aspects of the constitution require approval by not less than 70 per cent of the House and two thirds of the Senate.

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الإمارات

Opera Good to look at Donizetti

Above: The fighting Fendis, left to right: Alda, Franca, Carla, Paola, Anna.

Left: Fendi's blue coat and a patched cape made from a mosaic of dyed squirrel pieces with a bold plaid lining.

Photographs by Harry Kerr.

Collegiate Theatre

It was another red-letter night for the Donizetti Society and rare romantic opera aficionados at this year's Camden Festival rose on the British premiere of two one-act Donizetti works that had slept in reserve stock ever since their first double-bill performance in Naples in 1831. They will be staged again tonight and tomorrow.

There are usually one or two good reasons why the dust has grown so thick. The "melodrama" *Francesca di Potz* and the comedy *La romanziera* were composed between *Anna Bolena* and *L'elisir d'amore* and certainly show Donizetti beginning to cut his expressive coat according to his technical cloth. But both are too long by half, and even with brave, neatly-tailored English translation by Don White, for every witty couplet, for every jolly or affective tune, every poignant moment of orchestration, there are yards of note and word-spinning that hide can see.

What did just save the evening were the visual pleasure and ingenuity of Steven Gregory's designs, beautifully lit by Tim Bell, equally versatile and strong-well-chosen casts, and vibrantly energetic musical direction from David Parry conducting the English Symphony Orchestra.

Since *Francesca di Potz*'s tale of misguided deception, suspicion and jealousy at the sixteenth-century French court is incredible, slackly structured and dramatically vacuous, the producer, Sally Day, had no work hard. She chose to play up the musical clichés by sending them up with yet more clichéd stage routines — an acceptable idea in theory, but clumsy, at times embarrassingly, overdone.

The vocal and dramatic skills of singers like Della Jones (a splendidly swaggering Page), Donald Maxwell (a rubber-faced, stentorian, villainous Count) and Russell Smythe (a dashing, vocally virile King) are considerable enough; and Gillian Sullivan, as radiant as ever, made the hour well worthwhile. With her agile, ringing floriture, as golden as her costume and the autumnal light on the castle walls.

For *La romanziera*, these walls cunningly formed the interior of a 1920s salon. Russell Smythe became Filidoro, the fiancé of Lady Antonina, Della Jones was transformed into a romantic grande-dame of a lady novelist, while Donald Maxwell reappeared as a neatly characterized, unflinchingly resonant literary agent, Tommaso.

The linking spoken dialogue is missing from this work, and Opera Rara have made an ingenious job of reconstructing, resetting, rewriting and generally cooking up a piece of theatre that can house Donizetti's notes. But here, with weaker plot and ensembles, the production had to work even harder, and one was painfully conscious of the fact in the valiant but seemingly endless send-ups of stock aria, the laboured comic business.

Again there was plenty for the ear to enjoy, particularly in Russell Smythe's timeless, musical and melodic handling of his flowery set pieces, and in Della Jones' colourful vocal and physical stamina.

Hilary Finch

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Cinema

The moral behind a savage enigma

El Salvador: Another Vietnam

ICA Cinematheque

Death is my Trade (A)

Paris Pullman

Rough Cut and Ready Dubbed

ICA Cinema

The Secret Policeman's Other Ball (AA)

ABC Shaftesbury Avenue

Wild Women of Wonga (A)/Glen or Glenda?

Scala

The most salutary film from this week's decidedly heterogeneous selection is *Glen or Glenda?* and *Tete Vasconcellos' El Salvador: Another Vietnam*. American-made, it is vehemently anti-interventionist; and the clarity of its exposition and weight of documentary evidence are shocking and undubitable.

The credit titles reveal the huge range of archive sources that have been searched to make the case, to show how the old oligarchy maintains its grasp of the wealth of *El Salvador* by the simple process of eliminating any opposition from those who have been denied even the smallest share. Like any other argumentative documentary of the sort, this one invites us to see and hear the testimony of people — priests, politicians, missionaries, peasants — who argue the case for the underprivileged. The difference in *El Salvador: Another Vietnam* is that the next moment we are likely to see the abused corpses of these selfsame people being retrieved from shallow graves.

The viewpoint is not only that of the resistance and revolution. The cameras accompany a military detachment ostensibly implementing the vaunted agrarian reform programme; the operation, which

is called a "sweep", turns out to be an undisguised policing and punitive exercise. President Duarte himself has his say to answer, with undeniable logic, the charges that a lot of peasants have been killed; naturally they have, he says, since most people in *El Salvador* are peasants.

The film-makers remain unmotivated and rational, and their film presents both a moral and an enigma. The moral (voiced by one of the San Francisco longshoremen who boycotted military shipments to the junta) is that hunger and oppression creates more revolutionaries and Communists than Russia or Cuba could ever make. The enigma is how soldiers — whether here or in Poland, whose military regime looks almost benevolent beside that of *El Salvador* or anywhere else — can be trained to turn their guns, ruthlessly, and unquestioningly, upon their own kin.

Part of the answer is provided in Theodor Kottula's *Aus einem deutschen Leben*, shown here as *Death is my Trade*, which recreates the life story of Rudolf Höss, the commandant of Auschwitz who with relentless efficiency raised the daily rate of extinctions to become eventually responsible for the death of millions of Jews.

Seeking an explanation for the "good soldier" enigma, Kottula quotes an American psychologist, Stanley Milgram, who wrote a study of *Obedience to Authority*: "The essence of obedience consists in the fact that a person comes to view himself as the instrument for carrying out another person's wishes; and he therefore no longer regards himself as responsible for his actions." Höss was the perfect case-history, not "a heroic figure struggling with conscience, nor a pathologically aggressive man ruthlessly exploiting a position of power, but a functionary who has been given a job to do" and who strives to create an impression of competence in his work.

A boy soldier devoted to his officers in the First World War, Höss joined the Freikorps after it dutifully shooting Spartacist revolutionaries. The drift through unemployment to the SA was inevitable, as was the zeal to justify Himmler's confidence in promoting him to run the Auschwitz programme.

Kottula's film, based on Höss's reminiscences — written, while awaiting execution — and Robert Merle's novel *Le Mort est mon mestre*, shows a man who sees no blood on his hands, only ink. It is a routine job, sitting at a desk, passing plans for gas chambers



A wild week in the cinema: Billy Connolly in "The Secret Policeman's Other Ball" and "Women of Wonga" in line for a Golden Turkey award.

and crematoria, adding up the daily figures, checking train timetables and consignments. For Höss, Auschwitz is the office; and, when a siren is heard, he turns his back in cheerful confidence that "the officer will put it in the report", that in the end it is all statistics on paper.

Men like Höss are dangerous not because they are inherently wicked but because they are dull and stupid. It is a proposition that is not easy to dramatise. Villains, like Kottula, have resisted any temptation to sensationalise his material. He practically never shows us the victims. As conscientiously, and at great length, he details every step of Höss's progress. For all the care and good intentions it grows terribly ponderous; and the danger is that, even a slight boredom is allowed to set in, the sense of the importance of the subject is all too rapidly dispersed.

The perils of obedience and conformism are apparent again in the documentary reportage *Rough Cut and Ready Dubbed*. It is not a specially sophisticated piece of film-making — it is, after all, the work of ten teenagers, imaginatively subsidized by the Greater London Arts Association and the British Film Institute — but it is as lively and intimate a view as we have seen of punk bands and their followers.

Many of the performers (most notably the urchin Cockney rejects) are bright as berries and totally self-aware. Most of the fans are tribals, conforming not just to their obligatory uniforms as skins or mods or punks but also to group attitudes on race, authority and riot. There is a startling glimpse of the power of the performer as demagogue: a musician recalls how a word to the punk supporters at a concert was enough to launch a sharp military fashion mop-up of hostile skins in the audience. It is a funny, amiable, truthful and finally disquieting ethnographical study of the lost tribes of London.

Reverting momentarily to *El Salvador*, Ol' Hopalong proves the undoubtedly star of *The Secret Policeman's Other Ball*. John Wells Thatcher (who never seems as smug as the real thing) an eerily real Ronald Reagan beaming under his pancake as he menaces Reds or all colours, and experiencing grave difficulty in putting his pistol back into its holster.

At some point they clearly recognized the idiocy of the thing and played it for laughs. The quality of Edward D. Wood Junior was his invulnerable innocence in the face of his own folly. *Glen or Glenda?*, a problem picture about transvestites (in 1954 sex changes were in the news), is a muddle of bad acting and worse writing, diabolical dream sequences and endless scenes of devastated wives coming upon their husbands wearing their best sweaters and stockings. The star turn is Bela Lugosi as chorus, surrounded by skeletons and running reptiles, and acting the celestial puppet master with joyful cries of "Poo the streeens!"

They even rise earlier than the hunters, for they have

further to travel in search of their prey and, as we saw, despite the most thorough campaign plans, sometimes have to hunt the hunters — who, foxy in every way, are likely to take off early and in unexpected directions, just to make the saboteurs work more difficult.

The "sabs" did not conform with any stereotype, being not uniformly addicted to long hair, Marxist affiliations or resentment at what might be thought an upper-class sport. One, to establish his reasonableness, declared himself a regular reader of the *Daily Telegraph*. They do regard hunters as lunatics and "sadists" and, if their legal tutor was correct, are themselves filed on police records as "urban terrorists" who, foxed by every way, are likely to take off early and in unexpected directions, just to make the saboteurs work more difficult.

Some hunters accepted them as part of the rural scenery. "We have a very friendly lot of antis", said one benign hunting lady. "They are very nice. They open gates for us". This attitude was not shared by all. We saw one confrontation where a farmer was threatening to break saboteurs' necks; another where farmworkers made a start on a similar project. Contestants on both sides of this skirmish were contented they had won a victory — the rural aggressors, a physical one; the bloodied saboteurs, a moral one.

In verbal arguments between foot followers of the hunt and saboteurs, each side took great pains to produce moral credentials. Supporters instanced public works to attest their humanity; saboteurs lectured on the sanctity of wildlife.

One of the cameramen who recorded this immensely visual but inevitably inconclusive argument was kicked in the groin by a hunter during the course of it. Was that deliberate, one asked the producer John Percival? Preserving a commendable neutrality to the end, he declined to say.

Ned Chaillet

Television

Hunted hunters

Television returns frequently to the subject of blood sports. It is something of an old chestnut but it makes for good pictures and high-temperature controversy. BBC2's *Forty Minutes* last night dealt with fox-hunting and conveyed, more surely than I have seen before, the mutual incomprehension that exists between hunters and hunt saboteurs.

It was quite apparent that those who spur their mounts fearlessly at the highest hedges in pursuit of the fox would never be able to make the leap to land them in the intellectual territory of the anti-foxhounds. They and the saboteurs are irrevocably in separate cultures. So we saw many witnesses but no convicts either way.

The Hunt Saboteurs' Association, which has 4,000 paid-up members, comprises people of obvious zeal who believe that man should exist in partnership with animals. Most, it appears, are vegetarians who subsist on brown rice, lentils and wholemeal bread, eschewing animal products, a diet which might challenge the resolution of most of us.

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Ngema (left) and Miwa: careers transformed

Background: "Woza Albert"

Townships in life

Woza Albert, South Africa's play transformed the careers of both actors. Previously

they had moved from show to show in the townships but now they had a major city theatre and, most important of all, a creative home.

The play began with everybody concerned expecting censorship at some stage. Nothing happened. The usual process is for a member of the audience to complain to the authorities but they heard nothing and remain so far, unscathed.

To white audiences now growing accustomed to a steady flow of creative work from blacks, it was a success of their contempt for and hilarity at the system. Simon had worked hard to sharpen the edges of the caricatures of blacks and whites and the result produced such delighted recognition in the townships that the play regularly played 15 or 20 minutes longer than in Johannesburg.

Dressed in track suit trousers and plimsolls, Miwa and Ngema use few props — the odd additional item of clothing, tea chests for seats and ping-pong balls for their noses when they are playing whites — and employ a variety of languages, though for non-South African audiences there will be some translation.

Whether this recipe exports successfully remains to be seen, but, in this country at least, the immediacy and familiarity of the political issues should overcome the unfamiliarity of the range of reference.

But for Simon, there is no problem of communication anywhere. "South Africa is full of life, the life in the streets of the townships, and that's what's in this play. That's what people will remember when they see it."

Bryan Appleyard

the grandmother of the play remembers events which are represented dramatically, so that the fiasco of her wedding night in Italy is tenderly staged with Jenny Howe transformed in a moment from a crotchety woman of 72 to a skittish bride. Haluk Bilginer is established as the Anglo-Italian husband in that scene, established first as a creature of memory and then establishing his own existence so that he darts in and out of the action, taking a mistress and finally running away to Dublin with her.

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The characters remembered into being become independent of the memory, yet in the present continue with the grandmother speaking to her youngest grandchild, passing down her experience and even theological speculation to the only willing listener, Mr Minghela's play, benefiting from the

success of his intentions in the dedication he prints to the memory of his grandmother.

It is not a fashionable sort of drama that he offers her, taking as its concern the sanctity of marriage and the ramifications of a broken Roman Catholic marriage, but he offers several different levels of understanding.

That diversity means that at least one level will speak with feeling to many different audiences.

The grandmother of the play remembers events which are represented dramatically, so that the fiasco of her wedding night in

Former Rhodesian Prime Minister Garfield Todd on Zimbabwe's political future

Garfield Todd, Prime Minister of Southern Rhodesia from 1953 to 1958, favoured the gradual advancement of Africans to equality with whites. He instituted the freehold tenure for Africans in towns and the abolition of the pass system.

Uneasiness among his cabinet colleagues led to his being ousted from the leadership of the United Rhodesia Party and the premiership, and as white supremacy intensified, Todd became increasingly isolated. In 1972 he was detained under security regulations and was restricted to his ranch until 1976.

He was a political adviser to Joshua Nkomo's delegation to the Lancaster House constitutional negotiations that led to Zimbabwe's independence and is now a senator in Zimbabwe's parliament.



Multi-racial seating in Zimbabwe: blacks make up 97 per cent of the population.

Why one-party rule would work

Zanla and Zipra, the military arms of the people, fought not just to change the name of our country but to clear the way for revolutionary changes in its policies, economics and social structures. Rhodesia was a white man's country. Zimbabwe has land for all her people. 97 per cent of whom are black. Success must be measured by the degree of change, by the benefit which this brings in the life of the people. For example, in 1980 there were 800,000 children in school. Now we have 1,600,000 scholars.

In the past the 800,000 extra children would have been loitering around the villages because there was no place for them in school. Schools are full; schools are over-full; all through the country schools are being built. There is hope and morale is high. The largest vote in our budget is not for the army but for education.

Free medical care — not as adequate as we would like nor as good as it will be — is available to all people who earn less than £3150 (about £114) a month. This means most people, for although minimum wages have doubled there are economic limits which are not subject to government control.

And how is the health of the economy? Lord Carrington said recently: "Considering how Zimbabwe got its independence and the problems the country was facing, the Government has made enormous progress economically and politically". David Rockefeller said he was impressed with what he had seen and commented: "Potential investors must be encouraged to come to Zimbabwe and see for themselves". When such comments are made by such men what can I add but "Amen"?

Visitors judge from the figures supplied to them, I reach a similar conclusion by observing the improvement in the life-style of the people. Policies of "sharing", of "socialism", of free primary education and health services, of much better wages, have already raised living standards in the homes to such a marked degree that the suppliers and manufacturers of bread, sugar, milk, meat, cooking oil, blankets, shoes and clothing cannot meet the demand.

As for newsprint, there is a chronic shortage. Daily paper circulations have soared, and the extra 800,000 children in school have an insatiable appetite for exercise books. Most people are better fed and better clothed but the revolution only starts there. The real change, the matter of supreme importance, was to restore dignity to the people, to let a new day dawn. Now there is no longer "white" land and "black" land, no longer white privilege and black queues.

The first people's government has made dynamic changes which can be seen everywhere. In 1980 whites held all senior posts in the civil service. Now 13 blacks and 17 whites are permanent secretaries, 43 blacks and 41 whites are deputy secretaries, 49 blacks and 38 whites are under-secretaries. All editors of our papers are blacks, and from the thousands of our people who are returning from universities around the world and from our own university are emerging new leaders in industry, commerce and agriculture.

Mr Ian Smith and those who follow him look at these changes with deep apprehension: thousands have left and this is sad but inevitable. Change had to come and

those whites who were able to understand and who are ready to take their place as committed Zimbabwes are accepted with a measure of generosity and respect which was not expected or foreseen in the days of the war. The Lancaster House agreement gave the whites protection in land rights, in the civil service and in political representation. Whites have never recognized that privilege was transient and dangerous and that their safest course would be to renounce it and identify themselves with the blacks as full citizens, not making special demands but offering their important skills and experience to the new Zimbabwe.

But what about socialism and Marxism? The economy

The key to democracy is not necessarily a multi-party system — the freedom of a man to vote for his representative at regular intervals is what matters'

is a mixed one and will remain so, whether that is good or bad. From the level of cabinet ministers to the humble wives of polygamous peasants, human nature has its way. "Give my greetings to Robert Mugabe", said one old woman, "and tell him my chickens are my own".

David Rockefeller, in Zimbabwe, said: "The societies of the world are in various stages of social and cultural development and it seems to me natural and even desirable that they adopt different forms of government and different philosophies".

For 20 years we have had political rivalries: there have been minor tragedies and great sadness but we are a living and viable country, established in freedom at the cost of 27,000 precious lives.

I have known Joshua Nkomo with affection and respect for 30 years. I deeply regret his present suffering. It would have been simpler for us if our liberty had been won by one army of 50,000 men instead of Zanla with 30,000 and Zipra with 20,000 — the forces of these two armies met at one point on

my ranch so I knew them both.

Now the two armies and, incredibly, units of the Rhodesian forces have been amalgamated into our National Army — a united and stable force. This reassuring fact should be set against the discovery of arms for 5,000 men but with no men to use them and no evidence of a plot.

In the bitterness of the moment Dr Nkomo's men will stay in Government, a triumph for the good sense of Nkomo and the responsible conduct of the Prime Minister. Change I welcome. A one-party state I can accept if it enshrines the liberty of the individual to speak openly and to vote in secret. A one-party state could well be our best form of government for it would bring together the mass of our people who have similar political aspirations but who might divide on the grounds of tribe and personalities.

I have worked with the people for 48 years and I am confident that Zimbabwe will remain stable and prosperous. This conviction is firmly based on my intimate knowledge of many thousands of young men and women who have passed through Dadya School. It is reinforced by my knowledge of such leaders as Josiah Tongogara of Zanla fame and of his friend Jason Moyo of Zipra, both now resting together in Heroes' Acre.

My faith in Zimbabwe is buttressed by the actions and speeches of a great man, Robert Gabriel Mugabe and by my belief that the people of Zimbabwe will never lack the leadership of dynamic and dedicated men and women.

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David Watt

Putting the President in his proper place

The muddle about whether President Reagan was really invited to address the British Parliament, and if so, whether in the Royal Gallery of the House of Lords or in Westminster Hall, has been magnificient.

Like Trooping the Colour, it is the kind of thing the British do best, with every movement in his place with well drilled precision and a natural sense of occasion. The Government a picture of courteous embarrassment, the Opposition huffing and puffing, the Speaker expressing stage bewilderment. *The Daily Telegraph*, admonishing the White House for bad manners, and a steady susursum of crowd noises in which only the names of de Gaulle, Churchill and King William Rufus can be faintly but incessantly heard.

All very cheering. But admiration for a great performance should not be allowed to obscure the underlying and still unanswered question — which is whether, to put it crudely, we need to butter up President Reagan, and if so should we, like Disraeli, "lay it on with a trowel."

If we were a less inhibited society situated somewhere to the south and east it would be easy. We should just give our guest the best of everything, including Westminster Hall, simply because he was our guest. But since we are living in a Protestant country between the 50th and 60th North Latitudes we make distinctions and grade our visitors, and that being so, it becomes a serious matter to calculate how important they are to us, how much we owe them, and how much we want from them.

The majority of the Labour Party, united on this subject at least, with Mr Foot, would presumably argue that we owe Mr Reagan nothing — rather the reverse, since he has exported high interest rates to us because of an obsession with defence spending, and is busy spoiling the West's relations with the Third World on our behalf. And we want nothing from him except, very implausibly, that he should desist from these transgressions and complete disarmament negotiations with the Russians as rapidly as possible.

The defence of Western Europe is an American interest, and in any case Europe is over-defended, considering the unlikelihood of a Soviet attack. In these circumstances, the President is entitled to a little frigid courtesy as the head of a supposedly friendly state — tea with the Queen and a glass or two of hock in the Royal Box at Covent Garden (heaven knows we pay enough for the place); but on the whole we would much

rather he flew straight on to Dublin.

Mrs Thatcher takes a very different view. She evidently believes that we owe Mr Reagan a great deal, the inspiration of a monarchist with the courage of his convictions, the support of a doggedly opponent of communism and Soviet expansion, and much besides. What features larger still in the calculations of the Government, however, is the need to keep the United States fully committed to the defence of Western Europe and therefore convinced that the allies are equally committed to the United States.

Given the present tensions over the Middle East, Poland, economic sanctions against the Soviet Union, and burden-sharing in the alliance, there is a serious risk that American public opinion would turn against Europe and that we should see Congress enacting the kind of punitive troop cuts in Europe envisaged in the 1950s by Senator Mike Mansfield. This can be headed off by demonstrations of loyalty and affection in Europe to put alongside the placards and demonstrations of anti-Americanism and neutralism that will undoubtedly line the streets.

The hinge of this dispute (insofar as it is not merely a contrast of instinctive pro-

interested in the Pacific than the Atlantic, which has been furrowed in the past to an inconvenient extent by the British navy. The tendency of this combination to favour Britain in the right for research was a thorn in the Second World War, and has to some extent continued to this day.

It is reinforced, moreover, by appeals to a famous and respectable intellectual progenitor, Admiral Alfred T. Mahan, whose seminal nineteenth century views about the significance of sea power have become fashionable again in some Pentagon circles. Mahan's ideas were original and comprehensive, but the one that finds the most important echo under present circumstances is the notion that the US is, geographically speaking, really a gigantic island power.

Mahan's day this island was self-sufficient, but now it is not; it is forced, like Britain in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, to bear a lonely burden of world power, mainly at sea, in order to protect its internal base.

Casper Weinberger, the Secretary of Defence, probably has to be counted as a member of this group, moderate one. He is a highly civilized Anglophile, but it is significant that his great hero is the younger Pitt, whose coalition against revolutionary France was a ramshackle affair of considerably less significance than his perception of the necessity to resist the French on grounds of British interest.

It is easy to suppose that against this confederacy the traditional alliance of multilateralists is outgunned. But the struggle is much more evenly matched in terms of men and matériel than it looks. There is the State Department and the Secretary of State, Alexander Haig, with his Nato background. There is the East Coast establishment of the post-war years, aging but still powerful; there is the East Coast press and television centred in New York; there is the financial and industrial world whose investment markets are still heavily Europe-orientated; and there is the ethnic vote which, while it has the refugee's contempt for those left behind, is also determined that Europe should not fall under Soviet hegemony.

That is really the point. In the end, however desirable it may seem to combat communist expansion in the Far East and Africa, however dangerous the situation in the Middle East, it is in Europe that the main panoply of the Soviet Union is arrayed.

In a period of detente, Mansfieldism is a possibility, but the more menacing the Russians appear to be, the less possible it becomes to take risks with European defence. A successful Mansfield "amendment" of today might possibly earmark forces in Europe for switching to the Middle East in case of emergency, but the chances of a radical withdrawal are remote in the extreme.

: That is no argument, of course, for Mrs Thatcher not being nice to President Reagan on personal grounds or out of admiration for his country. It merely means that she is not absolutely obliged to give him Westminster Hall for reasons of state.

The author is Director of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, Chatham House. He writes here in a personal capacity.

Could Roy belong to Glasgow?

by Willie Hamilton MP

resenting English constituencies. And the Queen is partial to the tartan with more than a touch of Scots blood in her veins.

So what could be more natural than to welcome such and intellectual heavyweight as Mr Jenkins? He may not be able to roll his R's like a Scot. He may prefer claret to whisky. He may not be able to quote Rabbi Burns, or cut much of a figure in a kilt. Maybe he could learn to play the bagpipes and dance a Highland reel. There is a lot of cultural education to be

done, once the by-election is won.

And there is the rub. Roy has to convince those tough Glaswegians that he is one of them, or can be one of them in due time.

When I went to Fife I went from a miner's home in Durban to a mining seat in Fife. I could speak the same language. My way of life was the same. I felt at home. I was not an intruder. I was not a carpet bagger. I was invited by the West Fife miners to be the Labour candidate in 1945 after they had failed to find a Scot to

fight the sitting Communist MP, Willie Gallacher. And I have been in Fife ever since. Most of my best friends are Fifers.

So there is hope for Roy.

He, too, is the son of a miner — a Welsh miner. But there the similarity ends. For him, Hillhead is simply a means to an end. If vaunting ambition to be satisfied by stepping on necks, then the stepping stones may just as well be in Glasgow as anywhere else.

Roy had a miss at Warrington. He frightened the Labour Party, and the Tories

he was winding up a debate you could sit back in confidence knowing that he would demolish the opposition.

No one should underestimate Mr Jenkins or write him off. He is a considerable political figure still. His principles are sufficiently flexible to enable him to change them from day to day, and from one audience to another. What he said in Warrington he does not say in Glasgow. That is the great advantage of belonging to a party without policies or leader, whose camp followers can yell at Tory and Labour alike: "a plague on both your houses".

That might deceive for a time. But the day of reckoning is bound to come! It may arrive for Mr Jenkins on Thursday.

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In war, in peace, you need his help



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Book men buy back a future

The seven senior partners in London's largest literary agency, Curtis Brown, are buying the business back from the City financiers who have owned it since 1967. Their purchase includes some of the most richly-endowed literary estates, including those of C. S. Lewis, W. H. Auden, John Steinbeck, Elizabeth Bowen, Joyce Cary, R. C. Sherriff and A. A. Milne, the last still an industry in itself.

Curtis Brown was founded in 1899 by (Albert) Curtis Brown, until then the London correspondent of a New York paper. His son, Spencer, sold it in a £165,000 cash-and-share deal in 1967, to Industrial Finance and Investment, which later became the Dawnay Day Group and was in its turn taken over by Jacob Rothschild's RIT a couple of years ago.

The change in ownership now represents a recognition by the money men that literature might after all best be left in the hands of men (and women) concerned with letters rather than figures. It will not affect Curtis Brown's working relationship with the hosts of living authors the agency represents, such as Patrick White, John Betjeman, Samuel Beckett, David Lodge and Frederick Forsyth.

The newly independent company will, though, incorporate film, television and theatre, and Richard Odgers, whose speciality is films and West End plays. The joint managing directors will be Michael

Bugs Bunny has been to Cambridge University. He has also had a well-attended reception at the American Embassy in London, and today will be visiting the Great Ormond Street children's hospital. Meanwhile his friend Daffy Duck has been on a waddle round St. James's Park.

Shaw, who represents Antonia Fraser, Robert Lacey, Malcolm Bradbury and Gore Vidal; and Peter Murphy who almost monopolizes theatre directors.

What price RIT have set on the well-filled package I cannot disclose but while acknowledging that the financial investors have been "very decent" one of the newly-liberated directors did say: "It feels like it will be Lent for ever."

Peter Dankert, the Dutch socialist who is now president of the European Parliament, has been re-elected to the European Parliament. Last week, after an excellent dinner (three courses, two wines), British representatives asked him how he would vote if he were voting in Britain at the next general election. Quick as a flash came the reply: "Social Democrat of course."

Lancashire lilt
When discussing world affairs with Margaret Thatcher at Chequers

THE TIMES DIARY



The two Loony Tune characters, regulars from a Marriott hotel park in California, are here to publicize the tourist attractions of the Santa Clara area. They are of course elaborate costumes animated by humans, whose anonymity is carefully preserved by a typically American security system. The creatures are allowed to go nowhere unaccompanied.

today, Helmut Schmidt will be speaking fluent slightly American English. Yet he once had a strong Lancashire accent.

As a boy he spent a term in 1932 at a school in Manchester, and says that 20 years later was still finding it difficult to correct his pronunciation.

On the wall of his bungalow in the grounds of the Chancellery is a cutting of an interview he gave to the *Manchester Evening Chronicle* at the time. He was paid a guinea for it, which compared handily with the 30 pence a week pocket money he was used to at home.

Cereal rights
The Bishop of Truro wins applause for his Grace (quoted here yesterday) using other people's material. The thanksgiving prayer preferring corn flakes to porridge comes from a Book of Graces, published by the Women's Institute, and won an even bigger round of applause when used by Peter Jay, breakfast television, at an occasion

organized some time ago by the Advertising Club of London.

Cat fancier

A Toulouse-Lautrec painting of the Irish singer May Balford comes up for sale at Sotheby's on March 31. She is shown at the Café-Concert des Délices, dressed as a child and holding a small black cat, so she is presumably singing the song which made her famous: "I've got a little cat, I've got a little cat".

Appropriately, the menu, though, Sotheby's say that her real fancy was for frogs, snakes and scorpions and that she had a sadistic nature. Lautrec, of course, found her so fascinating that he produced five portraits, six lithographs and a poster of her within a few months.

Stepping up
Djan Tatian is about to become the first Russian defector to top the bill at Las Vegas. Tatian, a singer, described as Moscow's Barry Manilow, was the Soviets' most popular idol and had sold 52 million records before he escaped to the West in 1974.

Now he is relaunching his career, has been booked by the Bunes Hotel to lead their floor show, and is to be singing in English on the BBC's Russian service. Tatian was packing his bags to hurry back before the impersonation was confessed.

Diary Quiz
This week's news teasers:

1. Who tried to expose an indecency legally and was faced with a flop?
 2. Who was diverted after being struck by lightning?
 3. Where were 69 lords found sleeping?
 4. Which press baron is still mixed up with the harlots?
- Answers on Monday.
- PHS



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

March 18: The Sultan of Oman visited Bovington Camp, Dorset this morning and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for the County of Dorset (Colonel Sir John Wold) and the Commander Royal Armoured Corps Centre (Brigadier Simon Cooper). His Majesty was later entertained at luncheon by the Commander, Royal Armoured Corps Centre in the Officer Mess of the Royal Armoured Corps Gunnery School, Lulworth.

The Sultan of Oman travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight.

Excellency Archbishop Bruno Bernard Heim was received in audience by The Queen and presented his Letters of Credence as Apostolic Pro-Nuncio from the Holy See to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following Member of the Nunciature, who had the honour of being presented to Her Majesty: Monsignor Mario Oliveri (Counsellor).

Sir Michael Palmer (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign And Commonwealth Affairs), who had the honour of being received by The Queen was present, and the Gentleman of the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

Mr A C D S MacRae was received in audience by The Queen and kissed hands upon his appointment as Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Oman.

Mr MacRae had the honour of being received by The Queen.

His Excellency Sayed Amir El-Sawi and Madame El-Sawi were received in farewell audience by Her Majesty and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the Democratic Republic of Sudan to the Court of St James's.

The Queen this afternoon opened St Luke's Leisure Centre for Pensioners on 90, Central Street, London NW1.

Honours were received upon arrival by the Mayor of Islington (Councillor Edna Browning) and the Chairman of the St Luke's Parochial Trust (Councillor Christie Payne), Her Majesty toured the Centre, unveiled a commemorative plaque and afterwards attended a concert given by the students of the Arts Educational School.

Lady Susan Hussey, Mr Robert Fellowes and Lieutenant-Colonel Blair Stewart-Wilson were in attendance.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh, accompanied by The Prince of Wales, Mr Philip and Captain Mark Phillips, were entertained at a banquet this evening by The Sultan of Oman at Claridge's.

The Duchess of Grafton and Sir William Heseltine were in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh,

Memorial fund appeal

An appeal is being launched to fund a memorial to the late Sir Norman Stronge, the former Speaker of the Northern Ireland parliament murdered by the Provisional IRA last January, to be placed in the parliament building at Stormont.

The fund is being organized by Sir John Biggs-Davison, Conservative MP for Epping Forest, Mr James Molynaux, leader of the Official Ulster Unionists, Sir Nigel Fisher, Conservative MP for Kingston upon Thames, Subsidiary, Lord Moyle, a former Northern Minister of Northern Ireland. Donations should be sent to Lord Moyle, Moyola Park, Castledawson, Magherafelt, co. Londonderry.

Fellowship of Engineering

The Duke of Edinburgh, senior fellow, was in the chair at the annual general meeting of the Fellowship of Engineering held at St James's Palace on March 18. Viscount Caldecote, president, reported upon the activities of the fellowship during the past year. Other business conducted included the adoption of the accounts, and the election of new fellows and officers and members of the council for the ensuing year.

The Floral Luncheon

The Floral Luncheon will be held on Wednesday May 12 at the Park Lane Hotel, to raise funds for the Forces Help Society and Lord Roberts Workshops. The president is Lord Astor of Hever and the chairman is the Marchioness of Ailesbury.

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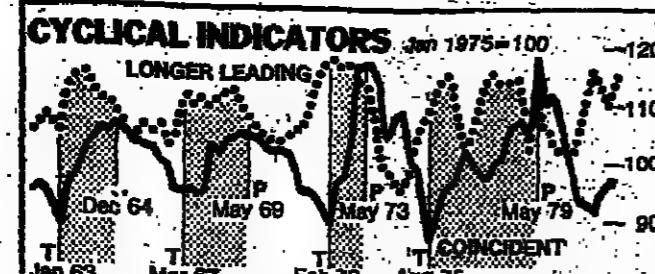
is and Claims, in which he was concerned with a territory at home and abroad, as well as with claims against the Government and other governments. In 1948 he became Assistant Undersecretary of State at the War Office, in which the three offices were then merged in the Ministry of Defence. He had been appointed CB in 1950. He was a JP for the County of London from 1965 and was Conservative Member of Parliament for the constituency of Wimbledon Common from 1968.

A keen historian he continued his studies in this field after his retirement and still he moved to write books. For many years he was a valued contributor to obituary columns of the press. He married in 1940 Mrs Mary Thicke, who died in 1970. There were two children of the marriage.

GAGE

es Association for life, he scorned money. Tradition and the work with people, a great responsibility of the Lord of many Tory members of parliament about electoral reform. Experience convinced him, however, that the firm would continue to act more than others (Times letter, 1978). As the European Community, he once summed up a local discussion without help from outside: "Gage was a man whose smiling grin was more than offset by his sense of humour and kindness. He had the qualities behind genuine desire and difference we could be no finer model for a man of sense in the world. He loved each other's generation.

Advancing in strength



There was a strong rise last month in the Government's composite index of "longer leading" indicators, which predict the ups and downs in the economy about a year ahead. It is the fourth consecutive monthly rise. The main reason for the February advance was the downturn in interest rates and the upturn in share prices. These are components of the composite index of longer leading indicators. The separate, "coincident" index, which shows the stage of the business cycle currently reached, has been flat since the late summer.

Trio cut lending rates

Germany, Switzerland and The Netherlands yesterday acted together to cut their key lending rates by half a percentage point. The Dutch moved first to lower bank rate to 8 per cent, followed immediately by the German Central Bank which cut its special Lombard rate from 10 to 9½ per cent. Later the Swiss National Bank announced a cut in bank rate from 6 to 5.5 per cent.

Third order from Oman

British Shipbuilders yesterday became the third company to announce a major contract between British industry and Oman, bringing the total value of deals during this week's State visit by the Sultan of Oman to almost £300m. Brooke Marine, the British Shipbuilders subsidiary, is to build a £20m logistic support vessel for the Sultanate's navy. Earlier, Mr Robert Atkinson, chairman emphasised to trade unions the need for continued improvement in productivity and performance. Experience convinced him, however, that the firm would continue to act more than others (Times letter, 1978).

The European Community, he once summed up a local discussion without help from outside: "Gage was a man whose smiling grin was more than offset by his sense of humour and kindness. He had the qualities behind genuine desire and difference we could be no finer model for a man of sense in the world. He loved each other's generation.

BSC backs the Euro Route

Mr Ian MacGregor, the British Steel Corporation chairman, is trying to swing Parliament to support a £2.5 billion European link project which BSC is involved in promoting with a consortium including British Shipbuilders, called Euro Route Group. "It is time the present generation carried on the kind of major capital schemes and investment which will benefit not just ourselves but our children and our grandchildren", Mr MacGregor said.

MARKET SUMMARY

About-turn for equities

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 556.8 up 5.4
FT Gilts 68.30 up 0.29
FT All Share 319.24 up 1.61
Bargains 18,761

Equities completed a sharp about turn yesterday helped by a bear market and lower interest rates on the Continent.

Home business was down to a trickle with more interest centred on Silver Buck's 5-1 victory in the Cheltenham Gold Cup — a regular highlight of the Stock Market's social calendar.

Meanwhile, Huntley & Palmers rose 6p to 50p after agreeing terms of a counteroffer from the United States food group, Nabisco. Now the fate of the group rests in the hands of the Monopolies Commission which is currently looking into the bid by Rowntree Mackintosh, unchanged in its offer.

Numerous rumours surrounded the 36 per cent increase in tax profits to £25m at Sedgwick Group, including a rights issue, possible acquisitions and a dawn raid. The United States brokers Alexander & Alexander were tipped in connexion with the latter. But it was dismissed as "totally untrue" by newly elected president, Mr Tinsley H. Irving. Sedgwick ended the day unchanged at 149p after 192p.

Associated Leisure lost 11p to 100p on the news it is to spend £1.1m on Smiths Happy Spencers, a Wigan-based coach holidays business.

Capsules rose 5p to 50p after the Worcester Engineering Co. paid £450,000 for Capsules waterproof and barrier paper manufacturing subsidiary.

The Rank Organisation improved 2p to 196p after Mr Harry Smith, the outgoing chairman, told shareholders there was no evidence of an increase in company activity.

A line of 400,000 shares clapped 1p from the price of Jardine Matheson at 146p.

Equity turnover on March 18, was £150,622n (£17,085 bargains).

Arthur Holden closed 2p down

COMMODITIES

After its precipitous plunge yesterday, May coffee put on 21 to £1,229 a tonne and March delivery gained 24 to £1,417. There was widespread buying interest, but coffee closed below the day's highs and common house selling. Dealers were sceptical about the capacity of the rally to sustain itself, and felt that the underlying trends are still bearish.

Cocoa spot contract closed £11 down to \$1,096 a tonne, with May cocoa falling 514 to £1,076. International Cocoa Organization delegates meeting in London said that they are likely to agree this week to borrowing \$75m by raising a 2 cent levy on members. But it was pointed out in the market that this would purchase only another 36,000 tonnes, not enough decisively to alter the supply and demand balance. The indications are that a good Brazilian crop will help to create a market overhang of up to 300,000 tonnes this year.

CURRENCIES

The ailing French franc dominated the markets, with both the dollar and sterling trading quietly on the sidelines. The pound made good gains on European currencies and the yen.

LONDON CLOSE

\$1,6100 unchanged
Index 91.1 up 0.4
DM 4,3000
Fr F 11,2200
Yen 438.00

Dollar
Index 114.3 up 0.5
DM 2,3745 up 30 pb

Gold
\$323 up \$10

MONEY MARKETS

Rates tended to be slightly easier where changed. The Bank of England relieved an estimated shortage of £350m by buying £347m of bills at unchanged rates.

Domestic Rates:

Base rates 13½
3-month interbank 13¾-13½

Euro Currency Rates:

3 month DM 9¾-15½

3 month FR 24-23

3 month GE 13½-14½

3 month Irl 13½-14½

3 month Fr 24-23

3 month Irl 13½-14½

3 month Irl 13½-14½</

BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

PEOPLE

More than a fleeting success

The Bibby Line, the oldest surviving independent British shipping company, is celebrating its 175th anniversary. At a civic reception in Liverpool last night, the chairman Derek Bibby, a great-great grandson of the founder, presented the Lord Mayor with a specially written history of the firm which has through six generations sent more than 170 ships from its Merseyside headquarters to sail the trade routes of the world.

The earliest sailing vessels included several captured from the French during the



John Bibby, founder of the Bibby Line

Napoleonic wars, ferried pig iron, while the latest are diesel-powered supertankers carrying liquid gas and oil; in between have been cargo and passenger ships of almost every kind, including the Somersetsire, a hospital ship torpedoed in 1942, re-boarded and saved by her crew. She continued in service until 1948.

Withdrawing from the passenger trade came in 1963, and lay-ups became necessary from 1977 as freight markets slacked. The past year has been one of consolidation. But, Mr Bibby says, the company "has sufficient resources to see itself through the coming difficult months or even years, and is already looking forward to celebrating its bicentenary".

Geoffrey McLean, is waiting for the results of an unusual interview in which candidates for a job in his gift interview him and not the other way round.

McLean is the chairman of the Midland Study Centre for the Building Team, a unit at Birmingham Poly which gives mid-career training to people in the building trade.

John Kirwan, the founder-director after three years is himself doing a career switch and returning to architecture. Since McLean and the centre have only £9,000 to offer in salary and office costs McLean thought it better to have candidates interview him and then to go away and decide whether or not they wanted the job.

There was a two-hour question and answer session and said McLean, there are 12 people considering whether the job will get the applicants rather than the other way around.

Oil companies' pollution risk

Insurance persons of the world unite in London next month when Gordon Shaw is bringing together about 1,000 of them in the biggest insurance function yet to take place in the capital. The International Congress in Insurance Law.

Shaw, congress director and arbitrator in insurance disputes, says that the juicy part of the five-day congress which begins on April 19 is the meeting of the working group on pollution on insurance.

This is headed by Ambrose Kelly, chairman of the Chicago-based Pollution Liability Insurance Association, which is funded by the American Bar Foundation.

Says Shaw unless world governments start listening to the working group and lay down the law on lead content in petrol, oil companies risk claims "far beyond the reach of ordinary polices."

Harrods goes east this autumn, when it opens a small shop within the Mitsukoshi department store in Tokyo — the first time that its merchandise has been offered in a major overseas outlet. The arrangement follows several years' cooperation between the two groups and will involve Harrods' own-label goods exclusively. Mr Alec Craddock, Harrods' chairman and managing director, will visit Japan in May to complete plans. "This is a most exciting development," he says. "We are delighted to be associated with Mitsukoshi in this unique way."

Nicholas Cole

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Mr John R Torell III has been elected president of Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company. Mr Taylor and Mr Torell, formerly vice-chairmen of the organisation, succeed Mr John F McGillicuddy who has been president of both.

Mr Paul C Button, Mr D Noel Healy and Mr Peter V Reed have been appointed assistant directors of merchant bankers Charrington Jephcott.

Mr John A Eganbury Jr, Mr Richard E Lynn and Mr Ian H have joined the board of

Peter Wilson-Smith and Peter Hill

Stone-Platt collapse: the banks finally lose patience

The collapse of textile machinery and engineering company Stone-Platt has occasioned a furious row of a kind rarely seen in the City. Publicly those involved in the last ditch attempts to bring Stone-Platt back from the brink were expressing disappointment that the bank had not seen fit to go along with the latest rescue plan.

Privately the comments were much harsher. Indeed the City view is that the banks have set the side down badly.

"Frankly they ought to stick to lending money for houses. Industry would be better off going to the building societies for risk capital. I really do feel the banks would have acted differently six months ago."

Thus spoke one City man yesterday as the receivers moved in at Stone-Platt bringing to a dismal end a rescue story which began in April 1980 when the company first ran into default on its bank loans and its bankers — under the watchful eye of the Bank of England — rallied round to save the situation.

Nearly two years, two rescues and several million pounds later, however, the banks' patience has finally run out. Desperate last minute talks over the weekend involving the Bank of England in the person of Mr David Walker, head of its industrial finance unit, could not save the day.

Ironically the key to the latest efforts to save the company was the sale of the Lowell textile machinery division, the running sore which is largely responsible for the company's problems. It made trading losses of £2.97m in 1979 and £2.82m in 1980 because of the deep-seated problems in its Lancashire operations many of

which arose from the appalling recession against which Stone-Platt had to battle for survival. Faced with the crippling cash drain of its Lancashire textile machinery operations, Stone-Platt embarked on a programme of redundancy and retrenchment accompanied by a series of major asset sales to our borrowings. New management was also brought in. Mr Leslie Pincock, a man with a high reputation from his days in the oil industry and at the Price Commission, came in to rejuvenate the group.

In November 1980 the group sold off its pump division for £1.5m in a move which together with other smaller sales cut into borrowings by £1.4m. Early in 1981 there were further asset sales disposed of. At the same time progress continued on reducing numbers employed in the main United Kingdom textile machinery operations in Lancashire.

The results for 1980, however, showed a net loss after provisions and disposal costs of £15m. Meanwhile borrow-

ings remained high at £32m net compared with £40m of shareholders' funds.

So in March 1981 the City rallied round again with a £10m capital injection and new borrowing facilities totalling £40m. Finance Corporation for Industry, the medium term lending institution backed by the clearing banks and the Bank of England, and Equity Capital for Industry — owned by City institutions — stumped up between them £3m of the new capital while big shareholders like Prudential Assurance and M & G also increased their exposure to the group.

At the time Stone-Platt said that it could not make a forecast but hoped to break even in 1981. In the event this was proved far too optimistic.

Losses were up again in the first half of 1981 from £2.5m to £3.5m pre-tax, dashing any hope of break-even for 1981 as a whole and a further indication that all was not well came last October when Mr Robert Taverne, resigned suddenly from his post as chief executive.

The failure of the latest rescue attempt, which appears to have been necessitated by the greater-than-expected difficulties in turning round the Lancashire operations, together with a downturn in the United States textile machinery side, is open to different interpretations.

The view of ECI, FCI and the institutional shareholders was that if the sale of the Platt Saco Lowell textile machinery division — the main source of the group's problems — could have been successfully carried out, that together with the property sales it would have left the basis for a viable company.

Together these sales would have raised perhaps £15m and although there would have been a big write-down on the sale and gearing would have risen to about 120 per cent, the institutions had indicated they would lend support for another relatively issue and restructuring.

However the assets being sold were security for the banks' loans and in order to carry on trading Stone-Platt would need to keep some of the cash it was raising. The banks, headed by Midland Bank, were not prepared to see their security whittled away and their risk increased. If the assets against which they had secured their loans were sold, the banks wanted the money back.

This view appears to have been unanimous among the main lending bankers, Midland, National Westminster, Barclays and its merchant bank subsidiary, and Williams & Glyn's.

It is likely that they have all made provisions already against their loans to Stone-Platt and it is thought that



Mr Leslie Pincock, Stone-Platt chairman, yesterday: a distinguished career, but he was unable to arrest the decline

between them they now stand to lose £12m to £15m.

However the alternative as the banks appear to have seen it, is to increase their exposure to a company which even after the disposals would need at least £10m to £15m of new capital, and could at best project a break-even for 1982.

At the end of the day their losses might have been even greater. So faced with the risk of a write-down of the banks' money quickly from elsewhere, Stone-Platt was left with no alternative but to ask for a receiver to be appointed.

The surprising element in the collapse of Stone-Platt is that the banks and institutions have disagreed so strongly on both its prospects and needs, if this latest rescue plan were through. Stone-Platt itself believed that only £5m to £7m extra capital would have been required. If the short term problem could be overcome — a view supported by the institutions involved but a far cry from the £10m to £15m the banks thought necessary.

According to one of those involved in the rescue attempt, "I think the banks lost confidence when Stone-Platt did not meet its projections for 1981. But I don't think they ever really understood the very real difficulties for a company of this kind in trying to forecast its likely sales and profits."

During the recession the banks have constantly emphasized how they bent over backwards to help borrowers who ran into difficulties and besides Stone-Platt there have been a number of other well-publicized rescue packages involving banks and City institutions. Weir Group, Thomas Borthwick and the computer company ICL have all been indulged by their bankers. But the Stone-Platt failure has raised new fears.

"What I hope it does not mean is that there is some change in the banks' attitude towards supporting industry", said one concerned fund manager yesterday.

Should the government have intervened? The Department of Industry has been in regular contact with the company — as with others in this troubled sector of the engineering industry — over the past twelve months. It was aware of the deepening crisis. But any rescue operation by Whitehall was firmly ruled out with the Government's belief that the receivership/manager route is to be preferred.

Although Stone-Platt is a significant force in the British textile machinery sector (indeed, perhaps the most significant) Whitehall is confident that the textile industry will continue to be able to obtain supplies of machinery, though the volume of imports may rise.

Business Editor

Europeans cut interest rate

Down came German, Swiss and Dutch interest rates yesterday, and almost simultaneously. On the face of it, one could hardly have

had more conclusive evidence of a concerted move by leading European countries to break the stranglehold of United States influence. Yet that may be an over-simplification.

The prime decision-makers in this instance are clearly the Germans. But the Germans may have been considering several things in choosing to act.

Obviously, they are keen to get interest rates steadily lower for domestic considerations; and the recent stability of the currency vis-a-vis the dollar, in the DM 2.35 to DM 2.40 range, is presumably seen as offering the right kind of exchange rate background.

But the Germans must also be acutely aware of the mounting pressure on the French and Belgian francs within the European Monetary System. Not only must there be considerable reluctance to have a sharp realignment within the EMS so soon after the last on February 22, but the Germans may be more too keen on the idea of a French devaluation.

For the moment, then, lower German and Dutch interest rates, combined with rather higher French interest rates, may help to stabilize the situation. And doubtless the Germans will use the breathing space to suggest that, on the right kind of exchange rate background.

Given by this index is not as unambiguously bullish as it might at first appear.

To begin with the strong

rise in February was based on only two of the five component indicators — interest rates were coming down and share prices were going up. Secondly, the index has been wobbling about since last spring when, after an earlier surge, it suddenly began to slide. It then continued to decline during the summer and showed a particularly marked rise last month.

If this is an accurate guide to the future trend of the economy we are likely to see an unwinding break in the recovery before it resumes its momentum. On the other hand, experience suggests that a series of wobbles on the index can be the prelude to a sharp change in direction.

In this case, the recovery can be expected to be weak and short-lived. This would certainly square with some other evidence.

The separate "coincident" index which is supposed to show the stage of the business cycle reached at present, has remained flat since the end of last summer. This is probably consistent with what has been happening to industrial production. It was, of course, atrocious weather and strikes which helped depress industrial output recently, according to the Government. Unfortunately these are not factors that the longer leading index is able to predict.

Stone-Platt Lessons

The row which has broken out between institutional investors and the banks about the decision to pull the rug from under Stone-Platt is unprecedented. Inevitably.

That criticism may or may not be justified. It is difficult for those not privy to the facts to make a judgement. It is as well to remember, of course that the institutional shareholders have plenty of reasons to scream: they, as well as the banks, have a lot to lose.

Are there any immediate lessons to be drawn? One might be that the general recession has moved to a stage where there is less desire to bend over backwards to keep companies afloat. At the same time however, it has probably become clearer that for certain industries long-term prospects now look no better than they did a year or so ago.

Finally, one comes back to the question of whether banks and other institutions can be expected to give long enough cash flow relief to the companies without the government sharing at least part of the risk.

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The Over-the-Counter Market

1981/82	High	Low	Company	Price Chg	Divid	Yld	Fwd	P/E
128 100	Ass Brit Ind CULS	128	+2	10.0	—	7.8	—	—
75 62	Airsprung Group	73	—	4.7	5.4	11.6	16.0	
51 33	Armitage & Rhodes	45	—	4.3	8.6	3.8	8.5	
205 187	Bardon Hill	198	+1	9.7	4.9	9.6	11.7	
107 100	CCL 11% Cosy Pref	107	—	15.7	14.7	—	—	
104 63	Deborah Services	63	—	6.0	9.5	3.1	5.9	
131 97	Frank Horsell	127	—	6.4	5.8	11.4	23.5	
83 39	Frederick Parker	81	+1	6.4	7.9	4.1	7.9	
78 46	George Blair	53	—	—	—	—	—	
102 93	Ind Prec Castings	55	—	7.3	7.7	6.8	10.3	
109 100	Iris Conv Pref	109	—	15.7	14.4	—	—	
113 94	Jackson Group	97	—	7.0	7.2	3.1	6.5	
130 108	James Burrough	113	—	8.7	7.7	8.2	10.4	
334 248	Robert Jenkins	248	—	31.3	12.6	3.4	8.8	
63 51	Scrutons "A"	63	—	5.3	8.4	9.7	9.0	
222 159	Torday & Carlile	159	—	10.7	6.7	5.1	9.5	
15 10	Twinklock Ord.	13%	—	—	—	—	—	
80 66	Twinklock 15% ULS	79	—	15.0	19.0	—	—	
44 25	Unilock Holdings	25	—	3.0	12.0	4.5	7.6	
103 73	Walter Alexander	79	+1	6.4	8.1	5.2	9.2	
263 212	W. S. Yeates	228	+2	13				

Stock Exchange Prices ... Bear squeeze

ACCOUNT DAYS: Reclining Person, March 15; Reclining End, March 26; Contango Day, March 29; Settlement Day, April 5.

6. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

Silver Buck a tribute to Dickinsons

By Michael Phillips
Racing Correspondent

Silver Buck won the Gold Cup at Cheltenham yesterday by beaten his stable companion Bregawn by two lengths. That result represented a magnificent feat by their trainer Michael Dickinson.

The Borewood trainer was following in the footsteps of Peter Easterby who also saddled the first two home in the Cup last year.

As far as Dickinson is concerned his is very much a family affair with father and mother, Tony and Monica, chipping in and pulling their weight. The team makes a formidable team is born out by the fact that Silver Buck's victory yesterday took the stable's earnings this season past £250,000, already beating the previous record set by Easterby last season.

Their skill is well illustrated by the performances of their horses at Cheltenham this week. They brought just four South from their Yorkshire base and started home four times with three races in the bag and one second prize. And that second prize was not to be sniffed at either.

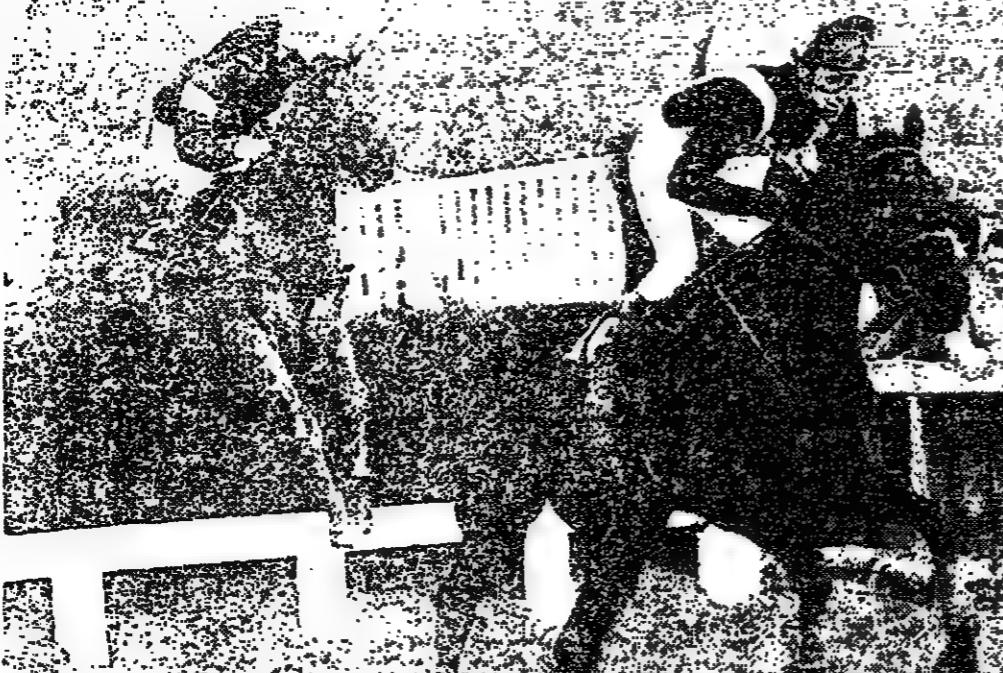
The other remarkable aspect about the performances of the Dickinsons this week is that they were all ridden by different men. Robert Earnshaw was on Silver Buck; Kevin Whyte on Rathgorman; Dermot Brown on Political Pop and Graham Bradley on Bregawn.

That Brown did not beat Silver Buck was no fault of Bradley who rode an inspired race. I cannot recall a trainer prepared to put his trust in so many at this level. If Dickinson's skill in nursing Silver Buck back to full health and fitness has been one of the most outstanding features of the season so then has the emergence of Earnshaw as a top-class rider.

Silver Buck was lame and confined to his box for a month after Christmas, having trodden on something so sharp, nobody seems to know whether it was a flint or a nail, that it even damaged his pedal bone. However, his homework in recent weeks encouraged Dickinson to return him to racing, that he felt deep down that he had a great chance of winning a gold medal.

What yesterday's result did was blow to smitherens the theory, held by myself for one, that Silver Buck did not stay a yard beyond three miles. All appeared to be well in the case 12 months earlier when Silver Buck looked like winning this race two fences from home only to be run out of it up the hill. However, what Dickinson kept secret was the fact that Silver Buck broke a blood vessel when he finished third in the Gold Cup last year. That explains why he stopped to run away behind Little Owl and Night Nurse.

This time, though, there was no holding him. Afterwards, a justifiably elated trainer simply said that all along he was convinced that Silver Buck would



Heading for gold: Silver Buck and Robert Earnshaw leads stable companion Bregawn

last it out, having won a three-mile race on him when he was a foal.

Dickinson admitted that he had misgivings when Earnshaw showed his hand and let Silver Buck stride to the front with two fences left, but he need not have worried on that score. Only a stretch of the last fence took two like lightning, his dream. But Earnshaw sat tight and all was well in the end.

Little Bregawn — ran the race of his life to finish second. He was followed home by Sunstar Cristus, Diamond Edge, Captain John, Grittor, Venture To Cognac, Royal Bond, Tied Cottage, Two Swallows, Vassar, Ainsley, Ainsley and Purple Santa. In that order, all the others were pulled up, with the exception of Earthstopper, who fell five fences from home.

Dickinson said that he had no plans for Bregawn, but that Silver Buck would probably rest on his heels and not run again this season.

Diamond Edge looked really dangerous turning for home, but there can be no doubt now that he is a better horse on good ground and I fancy that he will still be the one they all have to beat in the Whitbread Gold Cup.

Sad to relate, Night Nurse and Royal Bond were the flops

yesterday. Night Nurse was pulled up. His rider, John O'Neill, said that that lucky break was to blame but I cannot stand for that. The going was every bit as bad the previous year when he finished second. For one reason or another, as yet unexplained Night Nurse simply ran back yesterday. Royal Bond, on the other hand, had a most impressive run, eighth but at no stage did he look like justifying the colossal hopes pinned on him by the huge Irish contingent.

By finishing sixth Grittor did not run the sort of race that encouraged many to think that Spartan Missile might win the Grand National next year, but at the moment, I am afraid, All and Scallop, and Purple Santa, is that order. All the others were pulled up, with the exception of Earthstopper, who fell five fences from home.

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At the end of the day Diamond gave Fulke Walwyn and Bill Smith a little consolation for not winning the Gold Cup with Diamond Edge, by landing the Cazoo Challenge Cup.

The Yorkshire trainer Mick Eastby has signed 33-year-old John Murray to replace fellow Australian Terry Lucas as his stable jockey. Murray, who made his name in South Australia, rode eight winners in Ireland during a brief stay in 1974.

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Stewards will inspect Chepstow at 10 a.m. this morning to determine prospects for tomorrow's meeting. The clerk of the course, John Hughes said "There is waterlogging in certain parts of the track and the possibility of further rain. Unless there is prolonged drying weather, prospects cannot be too favourable."

Today's meetings at Lingfield Park and Warwick were cancelled because of waterlogging. At Lingfield the four hurdle races from today's card will be carried forward to make a seven-race hurdles programme tomorrow.

After Bregawn's magnificent run behind his stable companion, Silver Buck in the Cheltenham Gold Cup it was surprising to find his recent Haydock Park conqueror, Scot Lane, starstruck at the generous price of 15-2 in the Fixx Club National Hunt Handicap Chase.

Ridley Lamb was preferred to Scot Lane in the market, but the 6-1 favourite spoilt his chances with a couple of vital mistakes at a crucial stage of the race. At the last jump it looked like being a close run thing between Scot Lane and Sea Captain and so indeed it proved. Staying on just the second start, Scot Lane finally prevailed by half a length with Greasepaint five lengths away third.

Martin Tate has now saddled the nine-year-old to win three races in succession with the gelding's owner-breeder, Tim Isherwood. Scot Lane's next odds-on chance is the Whitbread Gold Cup at Sandown.

The Christies Fonthill Steeplechase Challenge Cup resulted in another desperate finish. At the last fence, of this marathon contest, it looked long odds on Honourable Man gaining honourable revenge for his eight-lengths.

Three To One in good form

Last season's Grand National fourth, Three To One, tuned up for this year's race with a facile 15-length victory in the Chollercoombes Handicap Chase yesterday at Hexham yesterday.

Ridley Lamb made all the running on the 11-year-old, who jumping superbly, drew steadily clear from two out to score from Border Brig. The Hawick trainer Ken Oliver will now be doubly represented at Aintree. Lamb will ride Three To One, while Goudie, Duxbury and Thorburn up with Rambling Jack.

The Bishop Auckland-based Arthur Stephenson, leading trainer at Hexham, was on the mark again with Dusty Duke, the favourite in the Royal Handicap Chase Steeplechase.

Lambton was preferred to Scot Lane in the market, but the 6-1 favourite spoilt his chances with a couple of vital mistakes at a crucial stage of the race. At the last jump it looked like being a close run thing between Scot Lane and Sea Captain and so indeed it proved. Staying on just the second start, Scot Lane finally prevailed by half a length with Greasepaint five lengths away third.

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SPORT

BOXING

The gentleman in Boza is not trying to get out

By Srikumar Sen

Boxing Correspondent
Cornelio Boza-Edwards was back in the gym in Highgate yesterday after an early night on Wednesday when the European junior lightweight champion, Carlos Hernandez, of Spain, handed him the title on a plate. The Spaniard turned his back on him and the Albert Hall crowd and walked out in the fourth round.

Boza-Edwards is preparing to box on Las Vegas on April 24 either against Limon or Navarette.

Referee Linford claimed

bill or against Navarette himself if Limon changes the date, as he has done on nine other occasions.

"We'll be practising getting under those right hands Hernandez was catching him with last night," George Francis, his trainer, said yesterday. "Also I want Boza to stop being the gentleman in the ring. It is dangerous. I had to him a touch of the Covent Garden language for holding back after the referee had allowed the Spaniard to rest and I am now slow and told him to box."

"I told Boza, 'You are not an amateur now. You are a tough professional and you must stop that. I don't like him to touch gloves either after every round. A man can hit him and say he did not hear the bell. What can you do? He is a dangerous boxer.'

Mr Francis wants Boza-Edwards to be mean: I think the gentleman in the Harrow boxes will always have the last word.

As Boza-Edwards had promised, he did not get involved in first-round exchanges with the Spaniard, and as a result Hernandez found his southpaw stance so awkward that he quit in frustration. He said so through an interpreter in his dressing room afterwards.

Boza-Edwards is going to stick to the "gentleman" he means. Navarette, who is roughly the same size as the Spaniard,

was shocked to hear that the wife of another boxing gentle-



Sketch by Boza, brought to his knees in triumph.

man, Bobby Chacon, committed suicide on Tuesday because he would not quit the ring. I had a long talk with Chacon at the Showbox Hotel in Las Vegas last May when he was preparing to challenge Boza-Edwards. The soft-spoken Mexican told me that he was going to retire if he did not win his wife, Valerie, whom he had met in school, hard to see him come home from fights with cuts and bruises.

The first appearance of Britain's new heavyweight, Frank Bruno, was disappointing. True, his Mexican opponent, Jesus Paul Wolff, who plays lock or occasionally right hand for his club, and has two No. 8s, Manuel Carpenter and Laurent Rodriguez, at lock. There were six forward changes in all, one of them positional.

After losing to England, the French soldiers made some more alterations, in their pack for the game against Scotland at Murrayfield. Michel Cremaschi and Daniel Ravallier, who were dropped after the Welsh match, came back for Wolff, and Carpenter, at lock, and Jean-Luc Joinel, who moved to a flank in place of Eric

Daplan, Northampton's former Yorkshire and England full back, makes his first appearance for East Midlands in next Wednesday's Morris Memorial Match against the Barbarians at Northampton. The Bedford back-rower, Gales and Dutton, make their first appearances for the East.

EAST MIDLANDS: D. Cooper; M. Summers, R. Barrow, D. Woodward, M. Underwood, J. D. D. Dutton, J. Ropponen, M. Fox (Merton), A. Whitchurch (Bedford), V. Carson (Birmingham), R. Wilson, N. Bennett, N. Clark (Bristol).

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VOLLEYBALL

Pincott the spiker can make point

By Paul Harrison

It is international weekend for England and Scotland. England's men go north for senior and junior internationals at Grange-mouth tomorrow and Irvine on Sunday. The Scottish women visit the bands for matches at Notting Hill tomorrow, and Leicester, today.

The English team seek to end a run of 11 years without a victory in Scotland. But they did win both senior internationals at home last year, the last time they were in the Commonwealth championships last year. Scotland won one, England the other.

The veterans Ronnie Hamilton (76 caps) and Charlie Ferguson, were in the last Scottish side to lose to England, as was the present coach, John Lyle.

For the English, the international parts are of the build-up for the men's Spring Cup in Greece from April 4 to 11; where they have drawn the Netherlands and Israel.

They have their most capped players, Nick Keeley (117 caps) back at the age of 32. Steve Pincott, a left-handed spiker, who has been playing for a Belgian club, remains one of England's most potent weapons, despite injury problems which is for the International Red Cross Trophy, presented by a former prisoner of war group from Edinburgh in recognition of the part played in camps by sport like volleyball. Sunday's "for the Rockwave Sunday" is for the Rockwave Glass International Trophy.

England's seniors, and Scotland's, the senior women finished 1-1, and in their most recent meeting, in the North Sea Cup, Scotland won 3-1.

The Scots have strong centre net players in Ron Brode, Lynn Tennant and Fiona Sutcliffe (all from Telford). England have

the veterans Charlie Christy, Howard, their captain, and Ann Jarvis, their most capped player with 93, both from Billingham.

Dedicated fans and teams spur ice hockey revival

Redskin who pays to play

If the future of a sport was directly related to the dedication of its adherents, British ice hockey could look forward to a succession of television contracts, sponsorships deals, gold medals and MBEs over at least the next few years.

Take, for example, the supporters of Nottingham Panthers. Not only do they fill the Nottingham Ice Stadium every Saturday night, they appear at away games in more than 100 towns and cities across the country.

To bring a place like Kirkcaldy for a game in January, 500 have chartered a train to go to Blackpool for the team's last National League match of the season.

Take, for example, David Rapley, a 17-year-old left wing from Billingham, and Andy Stebbings, a centre who plays for Grimsby Buffaloes.

Until this season all three had played in different leagues. They did not meet until the team first gathered two months ago. When the tournament begins at Billingham this afternoon, they will be asked to defend their best record as an attempt to beat Hungary, traditionally a fast, fit, dynamic team.

Though this is a C Pool competition, exclusively for teams in the third division of international ice hockey, the British will be delighted if they finish above the only other entry, Spain.

"We're the only amateurs in the C Pool," John Ross, the British team manager, has claimed. "Our players train at least four times a week and therefore have a very big advantage on the average British player which even the Russians' coach could not change."

"Given more time and more competition the standard will improve. I still believe that there

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expected of someone with experience at board level

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Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Davall

BBC 1

BBC 2

ITV/LONDON

6.40-7.55 Open University. Two control problems; 7.05 Impacts of Mining; 7.30 Edition Redon. 9.00: Schools, Colleges. Biology (natural selection); 9.25 The Boy from Space; 10.15 Going to Work; Moral Education; 10.40 Hymn & Fyld; 11.22 Monkeys and the Moon; 11.40 Going to Work; 12.30 News in Action; 12.30 News After Noon; 12.57 News headlines. And Financial Report; 13.00 Tennis player Arthur Ashe is interviewed in the foyer studio. Plus Dig This, and Living with Leisure; 1.45 Bagpipes 2.02 For Schools. Colleges: Troubled Minds? That's a Lousy Title. A Young People's Unit comments on a film the BBC made about them; 2.30 A Good Job with Prospects; 3.55 Play School Sheelagh Gilbey and Johnny Ball present The Pop-up Book of the Circus, by Loretta Lustig and Ib Penick (can also be seen on BBC2 at 11.00 am).

4.20 Captain Caveman: cartoon; 4.30 Jackomory: Thora Hird reads Joan Hickson's The Seven Sparrows and the Motor Car Picnic. 4.45 Finders Keepers: Battleships game between Poldalsham County Junior School, Twyford and Dunmore County Junior School, Abingdon; 5.10 The Song and the Story: Isle St Clair in the Scottish fishing village of Findochty; 5.35 for the Engine. 5.40 News: with Jan Leeming; 6.00 South East at Six; 6.22 Nationwide: the legislative role played by the House of Lords, including the important work in committees. 7.00 Film: The Satan Bug (1965) John Sturges's science-fiction thriller about a virus which falls into bad hands, putting the lives of every person in Los Angeles in danger. Exposed on the film, the bug could wipe out the entire human race. With George Maharis, Richard Basehart, Dana Andrews, Anne Francis.

8.50 Points of View: Barry Took comments on viewers' letters.

9.00 News: with John Simpson. 9.25 McCains Law: Crime thriller series, with James Arness as the veteran policeman Jim McCain. What begins as a routine murder investigation develops into something very different.

10.15 The Ian Wooldridge Interview: it is with Alan Compton, the Daily Mail columnist; 10.45 News headlines.

11.50 Film: Romeo and Juliet (1971). Western in which Roger Welch settles scores with three outlaws who raped and killed her husband. Co-starring Robert Culp, Ernest Borgnine, Jack Elam and Diana Dors. Director: Burton Kennedy. Ends at 12.20

Jitterbug dancer: We'll Meet Again (ITV 8.00)

• What do they know of Diana Quick who only Bridieshead twisted know? Very little. The erstwhile Lady Julia Flyte, who hosts tonight's *FRIDAY NIGHT - SATURDAY MORNING* (BBC 2, 11.35 pm) has successfully turned her hand also to playwriting, journalism and criticism. Not all that long ago, she was *Robert*. Robinson's companion presenter in a BBC TV series for *itv*, *WTF* (What's This Word? Which is a series of dogmatic quizzes) and, of course, there is now not a single programme on BBC Television (nor on *ITV*) come to that) devoted exclusively to the world of books. Two people (three with Mr Robinson) are ready-made for the job of presenter of a literary slot on TV. They are Miss Quick and Frank Delaney. The latter has won his spurs on radio in *Radio 4's*.

CHOICE

Bookshelf. Recently, he has dipped his toes into the TV pool. I think he is now ready for total immersion. • **KEEPING IN TOUCH** (BBC 2, 9.25 pm), Alan Drury's epic illustration of that painful dramatic ritual that rules the boundary between past and past, is the first play and the last — to be directed by Terence Devaney. He was killed in a road accident soon after the play was filmed. The play shows that television has lost a sensitive talent through Devaney's death. Keeping in Touch is also Drury's first television play, and it is a most promising beginning. He shuttles the cards of Time in an ingenious way,

and once again, the recently introduced departure of keeping Playhouse down to 35 minutes — TV's equivalent of the short story is shown to work in the writer's favour. • **Radio choice: KALEIDOSCOPE** (Radio 4, 9.30 pm) is given over entirely to an interview with John Mortimer, now the focus of much renewed attention because of Thames Television's recent screening of his play *Voyage Round My Father*, and his scrupulous fidelity to the Waugh original in his adaptation of *Brideshead Revisited*. • **ANY QUESTIONS?** (Radio 4, 9.30 pm) has a strong panel: Tony Benn, Observer editor Donald Trelford, and Margarita Laak. Fireworks Night could be a little earlier in Rye, Sussex, this year,

Margery Mason, Doug Fisher, Keeping in Touch (BBC 2, 9.25)

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: STEREO * BLACK AND WHITE (D) REPEAT.

Court of Appeal

Law Report March 19 1982

2% general damages interest

Birkett v Hayes

Before Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Eyleigh and Lord Justice Watkins.

Judgment delivered March 16

Interest awarded on general damages in personal injury actions should in future be at the rate of 2 per cent for the period deemed appropriate. That period would normally run from the date of service of the writ to the date of trial, but it should be a shorter period if there had been a reasonable delay in proceeding the action after service of the writ.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an appeal by Mr Brian Hayes, of Chatham, Kent, from a decision of Mr Justice Michael Pilkington, sitting at Canterbury, Mr Justice Michael Birkett, of Tonbridge, Kent, who was injured in an accident between the car in which she was travelling and a car driven by Mr Hayes, awarded *inter alia* £50,000 for pain and suffering and £15,000 of damages, a sum arrived at by applying the conventional rate of interest based on the short-term investment account rate over the period of 4 years but the date of service of the writ and the date of the trial award to be reduced by 25 per cent by reason of Mrs Birkett's contributory negligence in not wearing a seat belt.

Mr Pilkington for Mr Hayes, Mr Peter Foster, QC and Mr Michael Baker for Mrs Birkett.

MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that Mrs Birkett received a devastating head injury in the accident, which had left her with a severe behavioural disorder. The judge gave total damages of £295,663, reduced by 25 per cent because Mrs Birkett was not wearing a seat belt. He assessed the figure for pain and suffering and loss of amenities, as at the date of trial on January 19, 1981, as £30,000. The only question on the appeal was an interest on that sum.

It treated pain, suffering and loss of amenities as accruing due at the date of service of the writ, whereas it did not.

It was more like the item for cost of future care or for loss of future earnings in this trial. But the guideline had since 1971, and it was now too late to change it.

There was an attempt to alter it in *Cooken v Knowles* ([1977] QB 913). Since *Jefford* there had been racing inflation, so in *Cooken* his Lordship said, at p 521: "The

only kept out of £20,000. Nor did the defendants want the use of £20,000."

Even if Mrs Birkett was to be regarded as having been kept out of £20,000 from the date of the writ, she might or might not have invested it on short-term investment account.

If she had invested it, she would have had to pay tax on the interest she received from it. If interest was now awarded on £20,000 from the date of service of the writ for 4 years, she would get the interest without deduction of tax and without having to pay tax on it.

Alternatively, the might not have invested it, but spent it in other ways. In that case she would have got no interest at all.

Accordingly, the interest awarded should be very low indeed. It had to be remembered that Mrs Birkett was awarded £20,000 from the date of service of the writ for 4 years. His Lordship, having discussed it with his brethren, would put the interest at 2 per cent, and recommended it as a guideline for future cases.

His Lordship agreed with what Lord Justice Watkins had to say about the period over which interest should be given.

LORD JUSTICE EYLEIGH, agreeing, said that if damages were assessed on the basis of the value of the pound at the date of the writ, there would be an overwhelming case for the award of interest at rates which carried an inflationary element.

Such rates would seek, albeit imperfectly, to achieve two objects, namely, to preserve the value of the award and to provide for the late receipt of the money. However, it could not be right to apply such interest rates to an award which already took into account the need for preserving the value of a refusal.

His Lordship agreed that 2 per cent was appropriate for interest on awards of general damages and on the award in 1976 he and Mrs Birkett's condition at that date. Everyone accepted that that was the right way of doing it. The judge had to award compensation for the past, and also for future pain, suffering and loss of amenities.

If the currency had remained stable from 1976, when the writ was served, to 1981 and Mrs Birkett's condition had remained unchanged, the award in 1976 would have been not £30,000, but £20,000 or thereabouts.

There was no reason why that figure should be treated any differently from a contract debt. If the lady was owed £20,000 due in May 1976, and that sum was given in January 1981, she would get interest for 4 years — about £8,000. So she would have got £28,000 at that time.

But the currency did not remain stable. There was racing inflation; so that Mrs Birkett in 1981 received £30,000. There was no possible justification for giving her interest on that inflated figure for the 4 years. She had not been kept out of that sum over that period; she was

Vulgarity no rebuttal of licence to enter

Sauck v Mannion

Before Lord Justice Ormrod and Mr Justice Forbes

Judgment delivered March 18

Judges were entitled to hold that the words "fuck off" were not a sufficiently expressive rebuke of an insolent or impudent police officer to justify his use of them.

If the officer had reacted with anger, he would have reacted with other citizens, to enter upon the property of an occupier between the gate and the door, so as to render unlawful any arrest there for a refusal to take a breath test.

The Divisional Court had held that the decision in *Pickett v British Rail Engineering Ltd* (1980) AC 136, the House of Lords did consider the point.

Pickett was taken to the House of Lords ([1979] AC 536), but no view was expressed on the point in question. But in *Pickett v British Rail Engineering Ltd* (1980) AC 136, the House of Lords did consider the point.

Mr Justice Sauck was doing so much to make no mention of the Royal Commission report, of the reasoning in it.

In deference to the decision in *Pickett*, Mr Ashworth felt bound to concede that some interest had to be given on the difference in pain and suffering and loss of amenities.

He had contended that the court was free to determine what should be the rate of interest. It was necessary to consider the relevant considerations.

The important thing to notice was that the judge assessed the figure of £30,000 on the value of money at the date of trial, and on Mrs Birkett's condition at that date. Everyone accepted that that was the right way of doing it.

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She had not been kept out of that sum over that period; she was

come to the conclusion that the vulgar expletive used was insufficient to revoke the licence and that the officer had a reasonable excuse.

It was held that the words "fuck off" were not a sufficiently expressive rebuke of an insolent or impudent police officer to justify his use of them.

From the decision in *Gilham v Bredenbach* (DC unreported, October 23, 1981) it was held that the officer had a reasonable excuse.

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EMI Records Ltd v Ian Cameron Wallace Ltd

Before Sir Robert Megarry, Vice Chancellor

[Judgment delivered March 15]

In giving judgment following applications for a review of orders for costs on an indemnity basis, the court held that the costs of the appeal should be awarded to the appellants on an indemnity basis.

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Assessing and taxing costs

orders, particularly against claimants, and that taxing masters had had to do their best to tax costs under such orders. Often they had been unable to do so.

If the order was set out in rule 29(1) of Order 62, it was to mean anything more, in some exceptional case, the order should make that explicit.

As for an order *inter partes* for costs on a solicitor and own client basis, the court would only draw attention to the width of rule 29(2) and the need for the master to make a ruling on the amount of costs to be taxed.

The court was concerned before the court was that the court had no power to order payment of costs on an indemnity basis, and that the master should make a ruling on the amount of costs to be taxed.

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Tony Weaver



The Queen chatting with pensioners yesterday when she opened a centre in Finsbury, London, which will provide them with meals and entertainment.

Alliance seats share-out 'on target'

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Liberals and Social Democrats announced yesterday an almost equal division between the parties of two-thirds of Britain's parliamentary seats to be fought at the next general election and voiced confidence that agreement in the majority of the remainder would be achieved by the end of the month.

The announcement of significant progress in the talks, hailed as a "remarkable achievement" in a joint statement by Mr David Steel and Mr William Rodgers, was obviously timed to give a boost to the alliance in the run-up to the crucial by-election next week at Glasgow, Hillhead. But the level of agreement reached has far exceeded the expecta-

tions of leading figures in both parties.

The parties announced that final deals had been struck in 19 of the 48 negotiating units, and provisional agreements in a further 16 which await the approval of the local parties. Of the 399 seats in these 35 units the Liberals are to fight 102 seats and the SDP 196.

Thus the objective which has guided the parties throughout the discussions—that of achieving rough parity in the total number each fights at the next general election—has been carried out in the letter. Fears being expressed just after Christmas, when Mr Rodgers broke off negotiations, that intransigence on both sides could ruin the alliance's prospects, have largely not been borne out, although both parties readily admit that across

the country there are many local disputes still to be sorted out.

Mr Steel and Mr Rodgers said the progress made "reflects greatly to the credit of all our local members who have been involved in negotiations and have been obliged to make concessions and, sometimes, accept difficult decisions".

The areas where full agreements have been made include Scotland, Wales, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and parts of Greater London, and those where provisional deals have been completed include other parts of Greater London, parts of Greater Manchester, East and West Sussex, Essex, Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Kent, Lincolnshire, Norfolk and Suffolk, Northamptonshire and Northamptonshire, and Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Avon.

and Humberside, Somerset, Dorset, South Yorkshire, Surrey, Tyne and Wear and Northumberland, Warwickshire and the West Midlands.

Many local deals have been completed in recent days, for when the state of progress was last announced about three weeks ago fewer than 200 seats had been settled.

Lord Shinwell is understood to be upbeat about his treatment in the Lords on March 11 after Lord Irenachard, Minister of State for Defence Procurement, announced the decision to go ahead with the Trident 2 missile system.

After more than half an hour of questions, Lady Young, Leader of the Lords, suggested a close, but when Lord Shinwell began to ask a question he was interrupted by Lady Llewelyn-Davies, the Labour chief whip, who agreed with Lady Young.

Lord Shinwell resigns Whip

Lord Shinwell, who will be 98 in October, has resigned the Labour whip in the House of Lords. In a letter to Lord Patten, leader of the Labour peers, the former Secretary of State for War and Minister of Defence said although he had no intention of leaving the party, he would in future regard himself as an independent.

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Benn calls for vote on Lords' abolition

Continued from page 1

It did not Asquith in 1910, that there should be another general election to confirm that there was public approval. Far better, Mr Benn says, to get the approval of the electorate for the "swamping" proposal before the party comes into office.

It should be stated in the manifesto that the party, if voted into power, would ask the Queen to create an unspecified number of peers to carry through the Lords Abolition Bill. That, he tells his critics, would be "straightforward and honest" and would dispose of any claim that the electors did not know what they were doing.

Once "swamping" was accepted, the question was how to do it. In recent times, peerages have usually been granted on the recommendation of the Prime Minister of the day. This procedure would not be satisfactory on an issue of such profound constitutional importance, Mr Benn states. It must be seen that it is the will of the people that the Queen should act as requested.

He has found, he says, two precedents for asking the Queen to act at the behest of a parliament. One of them he highlighted when he was preparing his case before the High Court in the action which preceded renunciation of the Stansgate peerage. It was a request from Canada in the 1930s that the monarch should not create any more peers in Canada. That was done direct, by humble address.

Another precedent, he says, is provided by instances where the Commons, by humble address, asks the Crown to confer a peerage on a retired Speaker as a signal mark of royal favour". So, Mr Benn emphasizes, there is a mechanism by which the Commons can ask the Crown to act, and it is a proper constitutional procedure".

Although the paper is said to be written in "high falutin' constitutional language", it comes down to brass tacks when it makes the essential point that the House of Lords is a creation of the Crown prerogative, and it can only be "swamped" by the Crown prerogative.

Frank Johnson in the Commons

Big Jim's amazing last gamble pays off

James Callaghan, a 69-year-old retired Inland Revenue officer of Cardiff South-East, was yesterday questioned by Mrs Margaret Thatcher about a series of murders in the late 1970s when he was allegedly Britain's "Mr Big".

He succeeded the notorious Sir Harold Wilson, who was Britain's "Mr Little".

Looking directly across at Mr Callaghan during noisy exchanges on the law and order issue, Mrs Thatcher told the House: "Murders were greatest during the lifetime of the last government."

Mr Callaghan pleaded not guilty to all charges. Reporting restrictions were lifted.

The entire Labour Party offered to act as character witnesses on his behalf, which was more than could be said when he was Prime Minister.

Giving evidence, Mr Callaghan said the serious crimes, often recorded by the police of violence against the person, burglary, robbery, handling of stolen goods and criminal damage declined this year.

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So it was Mrs Thatcher who

had presided over the most murders.

This ending was contrary to the most fundamental principle of crime fiction. This is the rule that the police officer must never be the character who turns out to have done it. Otherwise it is just cheating. Yet here we had an ending in which the detective, or rather, Mrs Thatcher, was the one responsible for the most murders.

Any of us could write crime fiction on that basis. It is simply a matter of making the least plausible or most respectable character into the villain. It was all as wrenching as *The Mousetrap* in which, you will recall, the murderer is the one who everyone believes is the policeman. The Speaker, who I assume writes the scripts of all these question times, was simply not trying yesterday, brilliant though he usually is.

Mrs Thatcher, still seated and rummaging among her notes, made as if she was going to deny the terrible evidence that Mr Callaghan held in his hand. But as he sat down, he remarked: "Despite what the Right hon Lady said in her election speeches, neither she nor I has any influence at all on those statistics."

Mrs Thatcher arose amid colossal Labour derision. She hesitated and once more pillaged her notes. Suddenly, she opted for candour. The situation was that desperate. "I am grateful to the Right hon Gentleman for the fast comment which is obviously correct. I cannot reinforce what I said about the number of murders, I was thinking about something else. I will therefore give the House the relevant statistics of which I was thinking, which I had in my mind, although it was not all about murders..." Last night the entire Home Office was helping the Prime Minister with her inquiries.

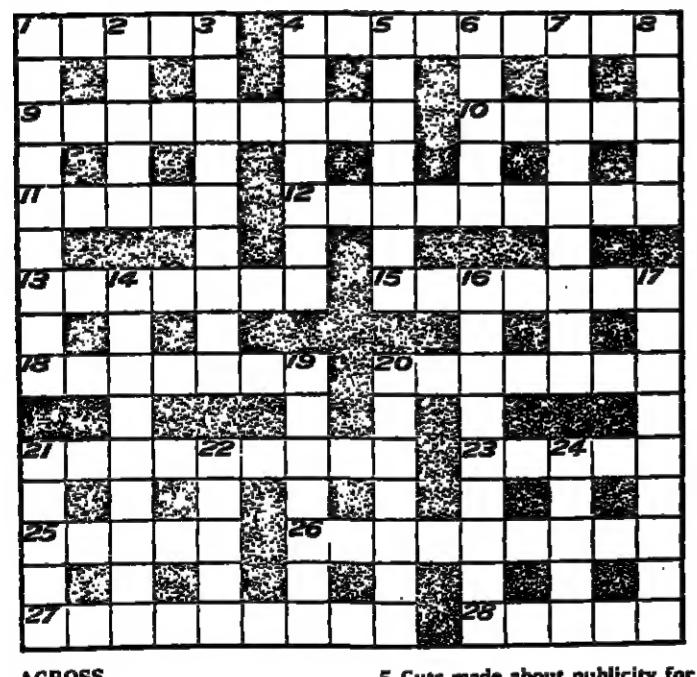
THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Queen visits Staff College, Cambridge, 11.30; Princess Margaret, Grand President of St John Ambulance Association and Brigadier, opens new Lection and Leytonstone Headquarters of London District, 4.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 15,784



ACROSS

- Look into TUC backing strike (5).
- Anabel Lee entombed "In there by the sea" (9).
- Joker drawing support (3-6).
- Hexagonal numbers round the river (5).
- Many on leave in Africa (5).
- Trader appears to call £500 stupid for return (9).
- Drains showing evidence of past revelry (7).
- Pompous being of high standing (7).
- Islander reporting chess capture (7).
- Involved with various rates for every works (7).
- Yard supporter gets spliced — him business! (9).
- Rascal among hydro guests? (5).
- Great fear of being late? That's about right (5).
- Momentous meaning attached to a Bible section (9).
- Rider for Lars Porsena forthcoming? (5).
- He sings a note, say (5).
- DOWN
- Minor complaint over best part of feature film (4,5).
- A heart perhaps is playable (5).
- German expression shown — it must get translated (9).
- Sausage Pile found in Greek island (7).

5 Cuts made about publicity for shows (7).

6 Flat — with lift also (5).

7 Little test in three sorts of verse (9).

8 Direction for scoring bumps in French river? (3-2).

9 Poor writer on river steamer (9).

10 Explains meaning of terrible triple about rent reform (9).

11 Rebellious serviceman? (9).

12 Approaching centre of Tenby in gear, possibly? (7).

20 BR connection booked by late traveller? (7).

21 Married lady so addressed two mothers? (7).

22 Emblem gives us endless worry (5).

23 Last trace of Cheshire Cat, swallowing a cereal (5).

24 Music from Ireland by Donal McGrath, Brent Town Hall, Forty Wimbley, 7.30.

25 Concert, Southampton University, School of Music and Drama, 7.30.

26 Concert, Royal Albert Hall, 7.30.

27 Concert, Birmingham, 7.30.

28 Concert, Royal Albert Hall, 7.30.

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